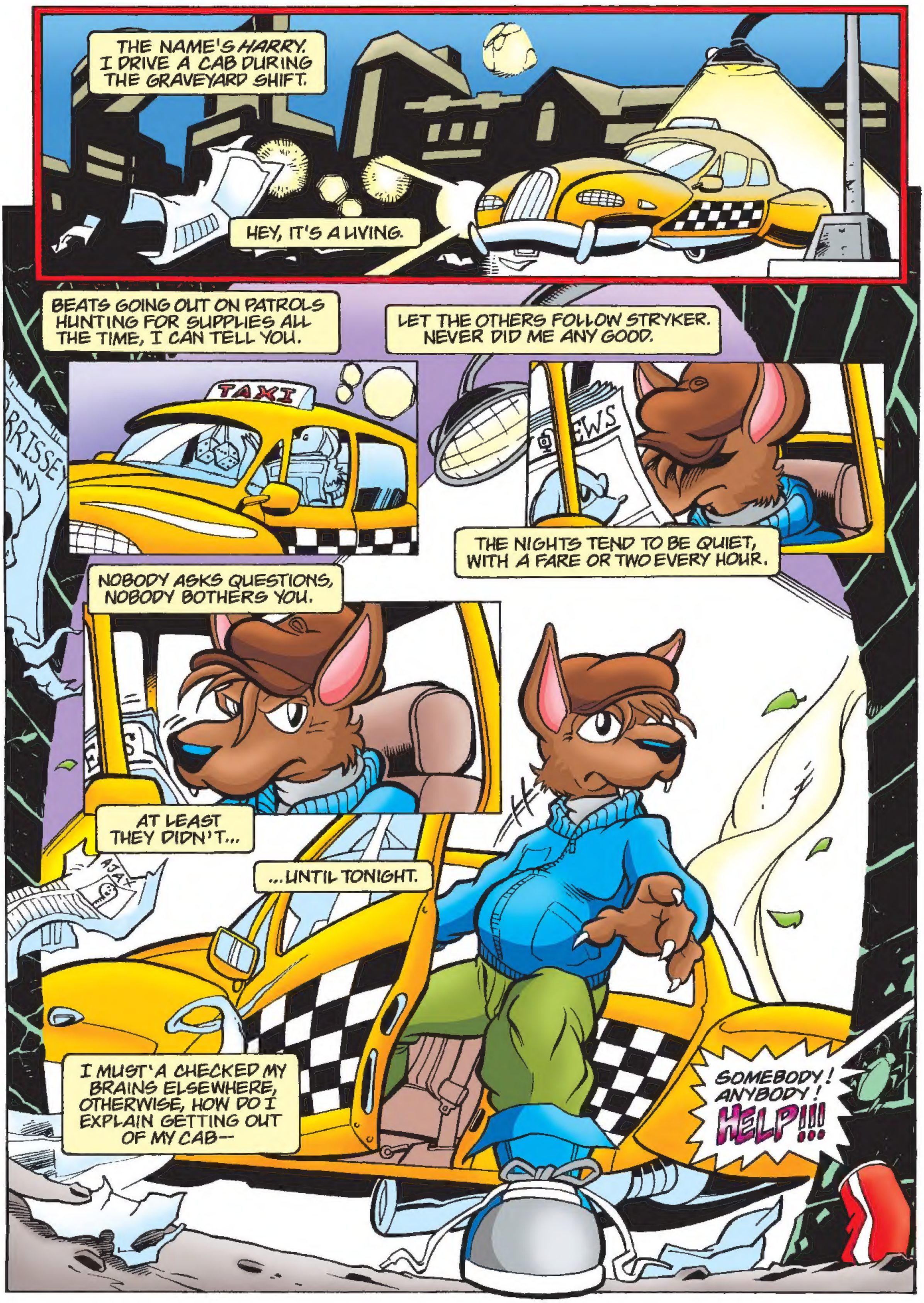
Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.13 JUNE
US $1.75
CAN $1.85
SEGA
KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
46971
BUY SONIC COMICS
SPAZ/PENDERS
PENDERS • SPAZIANTE • GALAN
GROSSMAN • WILLIAMS • PEPOY

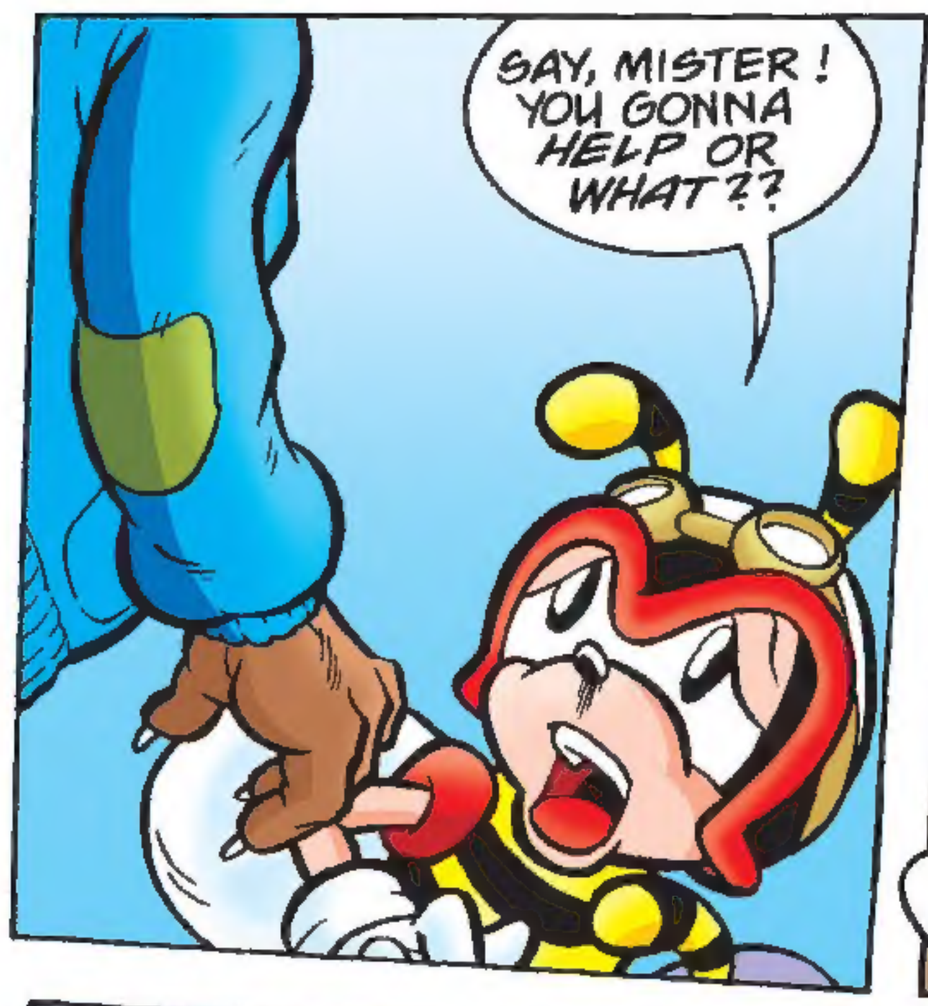
Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as guardian of the floating island, defender of all from the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten within, he is none other than Knuckles the Echidna!

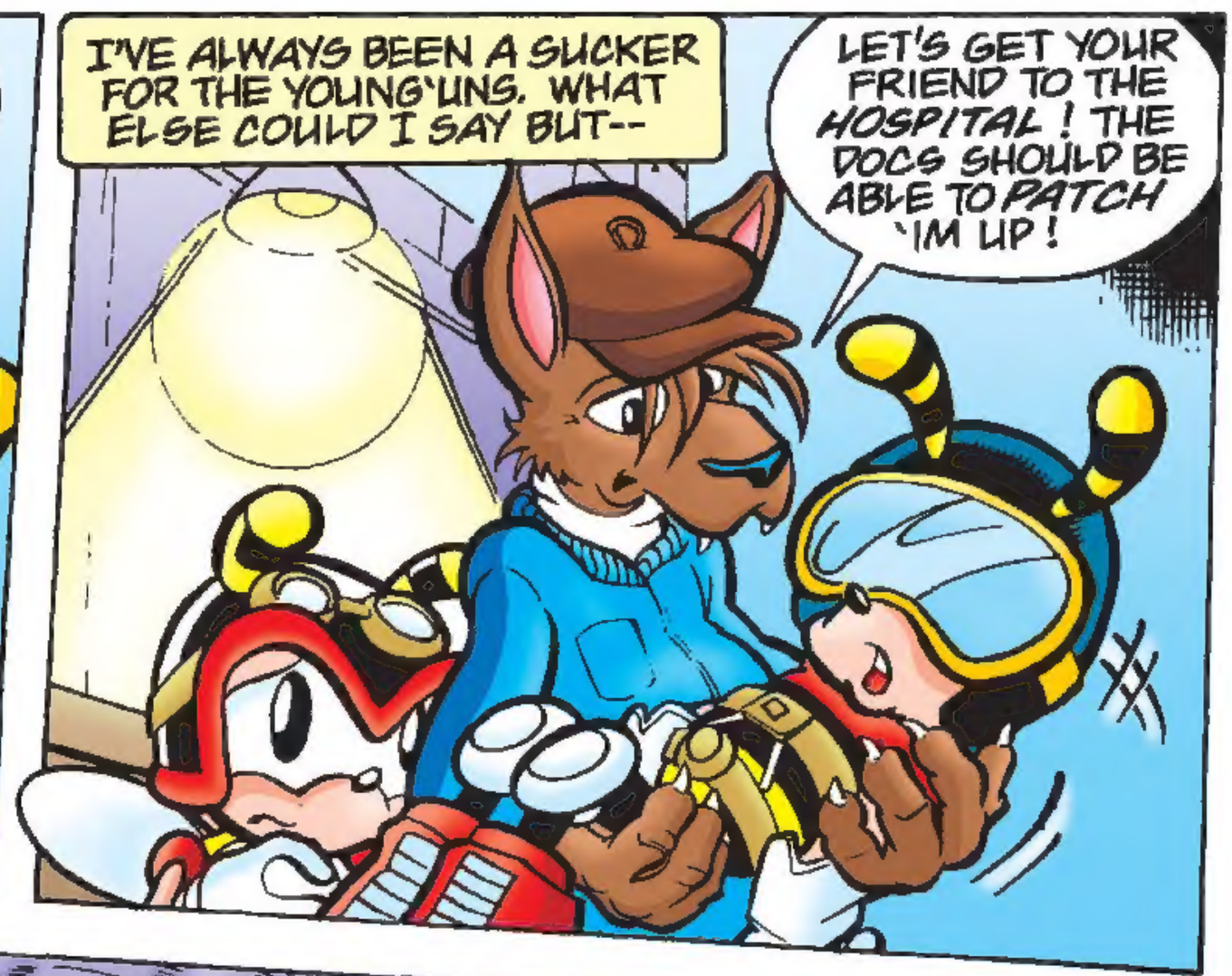
Even the embattled Echidna cannot defy the laws of physics and be in two places at the same time. As a result, while Knuckles makes his way back from the fabled land of Albion (the original home to the Echidna race), his friends Charmy, Espio, Mighty, and Vector - - collectively known as the Chaotix - - have found themselves charged to look after matters in Knuckles' stead. They have also found themselves saddled with a new member to their group... none other than Julie-Su, a female Echidna whose loyalties are uncertain.

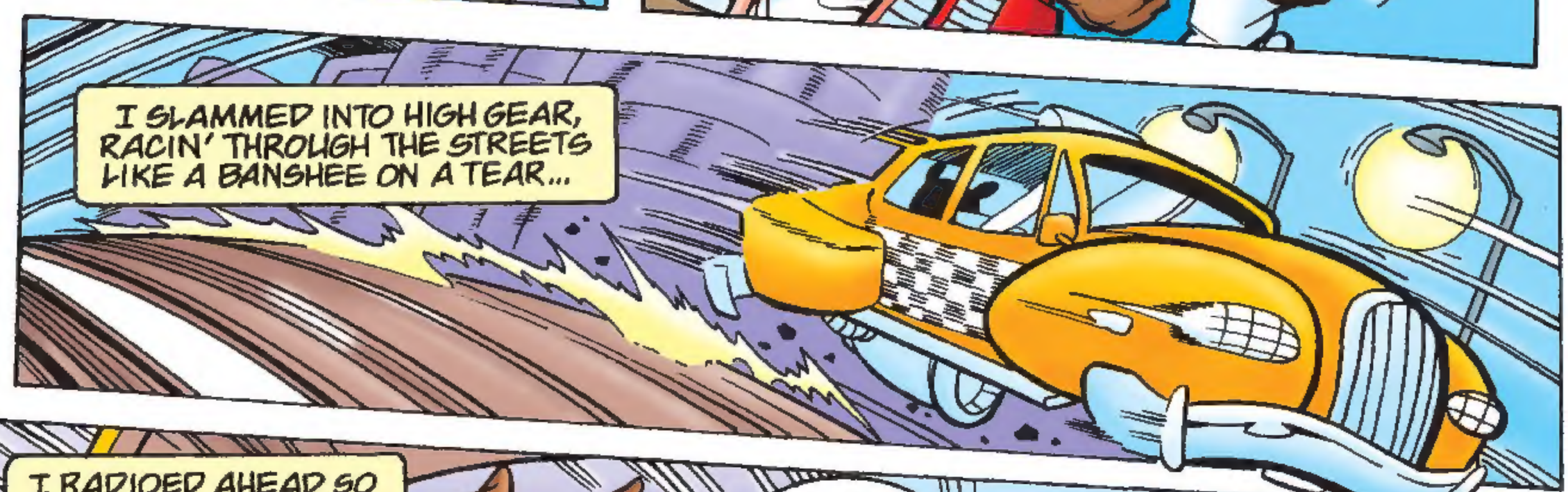
Although it seemed like a routine assignment at the time, it wouldn't take long before things took a turn for the worse...


THE NAME'S HARRY. I DRIVE A CAB DURING THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT.
HEY, IT'S A LIVING.
BEATS GOING OUT ON PATROLS HUNTING FOR SUPPLIES ALL THE TIME, I CAN TELL YOU.
LET THE OTHERS FOLLOW STRYKER. NEVER DID ME ANY GOOD.
TAXI
THE NIGHTS TEND TO BE QUIET, WITH A FARE OR TWO EVERY HOUR.
NOBODY ASKS QUESTIONS, NOBODY BOTHERS YOU.
AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T...
...UNTIL TONIGHT.
I MUST'A CHECKED MY BRAINS ELSEWHERE, OTHERWISE, HOW DO I EXPLAIN GETTING OUT OF MY CAB--
SOMEBODY! ANYBODY! HELP!!!

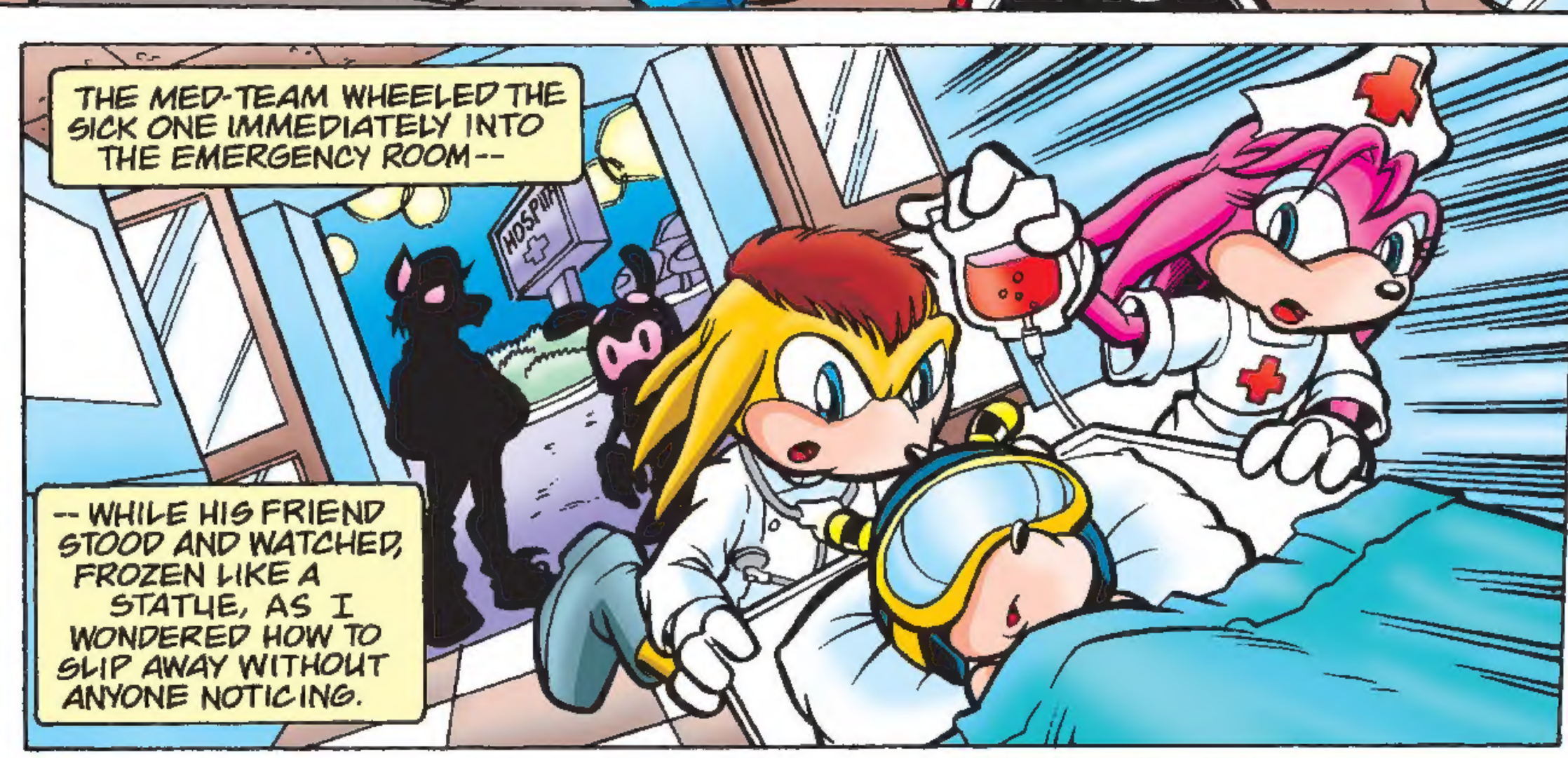
THE CHAOTIX IN
THE UNSUSPECTING!
--INSTEAD OF DRIVING OFF AND MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS ?
THE ECHIDNAS CAN SAY WHAT THEY WANT ABOUT ECHIDNAOPOLIS, BUT IT'S STILL A CITY LIKE ANY OTHER --
--AND THE STREETS CAN GET PRETTY MEAN.
IT'S FUNNY TO THINK HOW MUCH GRIEF THEY CAUSED THEMSELVES WITH THEIR HYPOCRISY OVER TECHNOLOGY. EITHER YOU USE IT, OR YOU DON'T... PERIOD !
UNFORTUNATELY FOR THEM, IT AIN'T THE ONLY PROBLEM THEY HAVE.
MISTER!
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY FRIEND ! HE NEEDS HELP BADLY !
CALL FOR AN AMBULANCE!
PIZZA
ONE NIGHT
YUM


SAY, MISTER! YOU GONNA HELP OR WHAT??

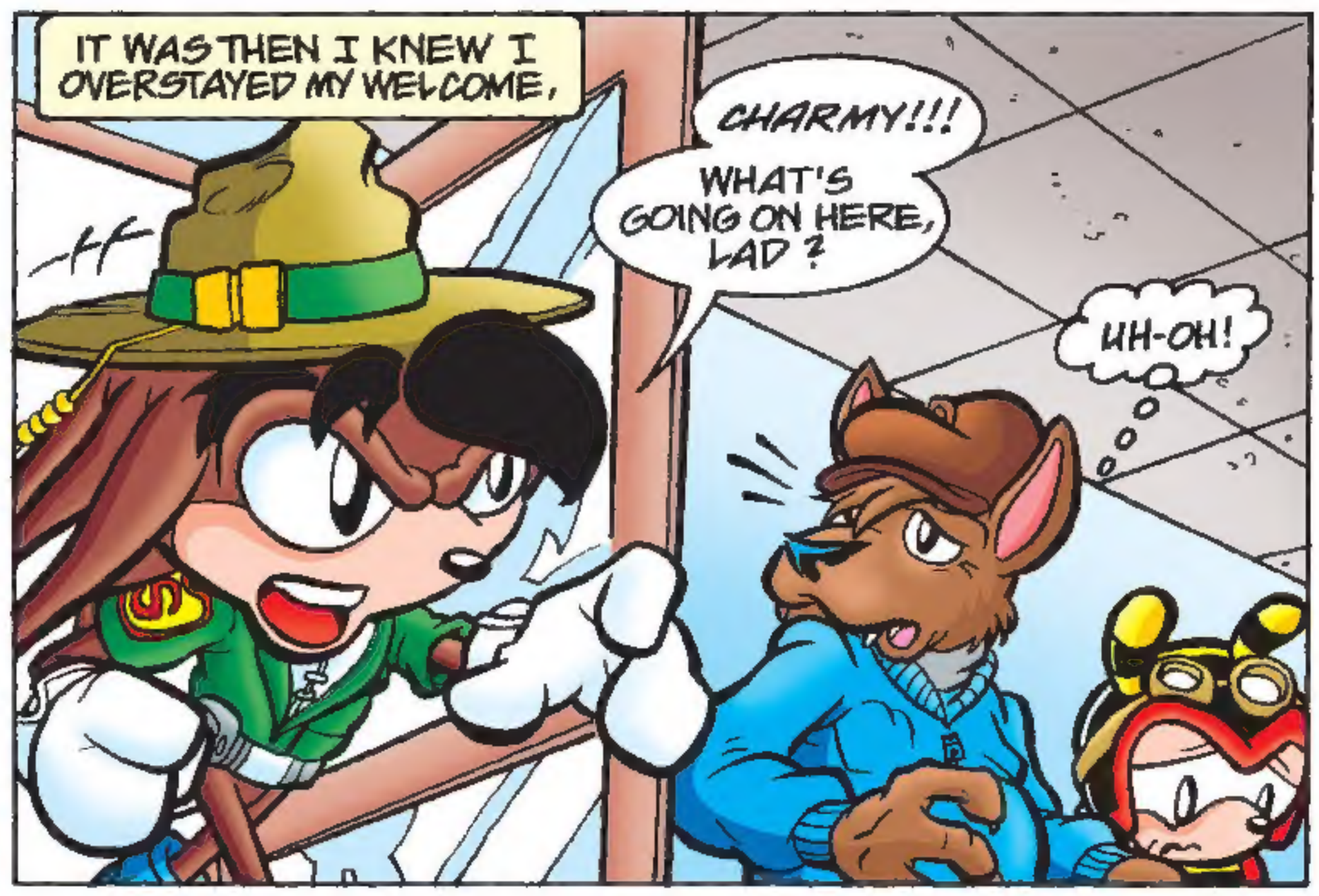

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SUCKER FOR THE YOUNG'UNS. WHAT ELSE COULD I SAY BUT--
LET'S GET YOUR FRIEND TO THE HOSPITAL! THE DOCS SHOULD BE ABLE TO PATCH 'IM UP!

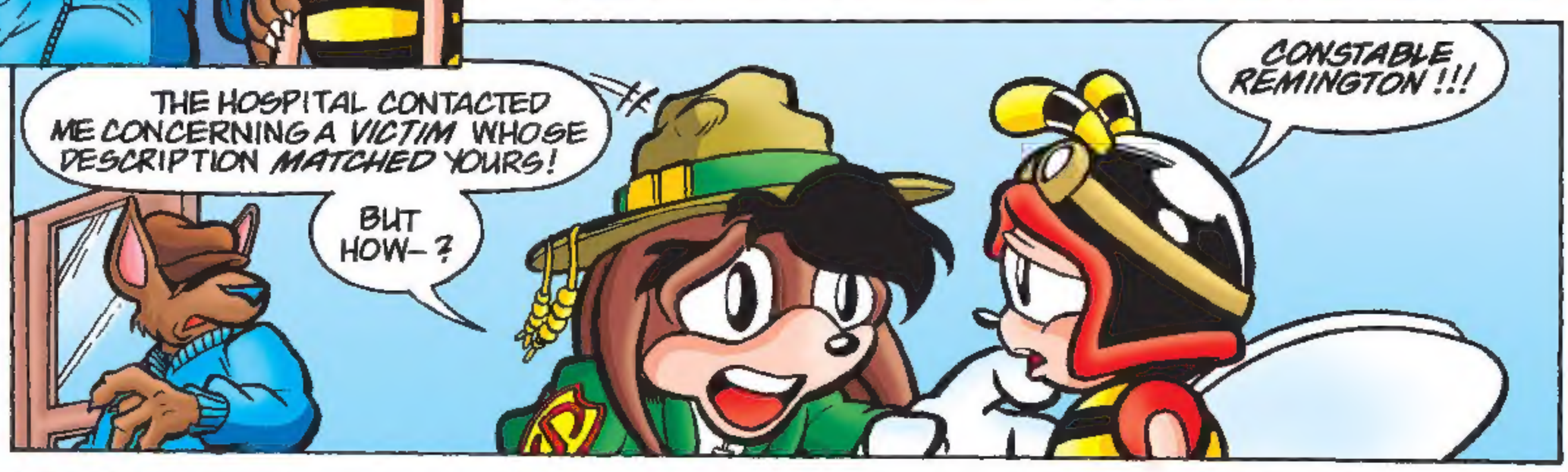

I SLAMMED INTO HIGH GEAR, RACIN' THROUGH THE STREETS LIKE A BANSHEE ON A TEAR...

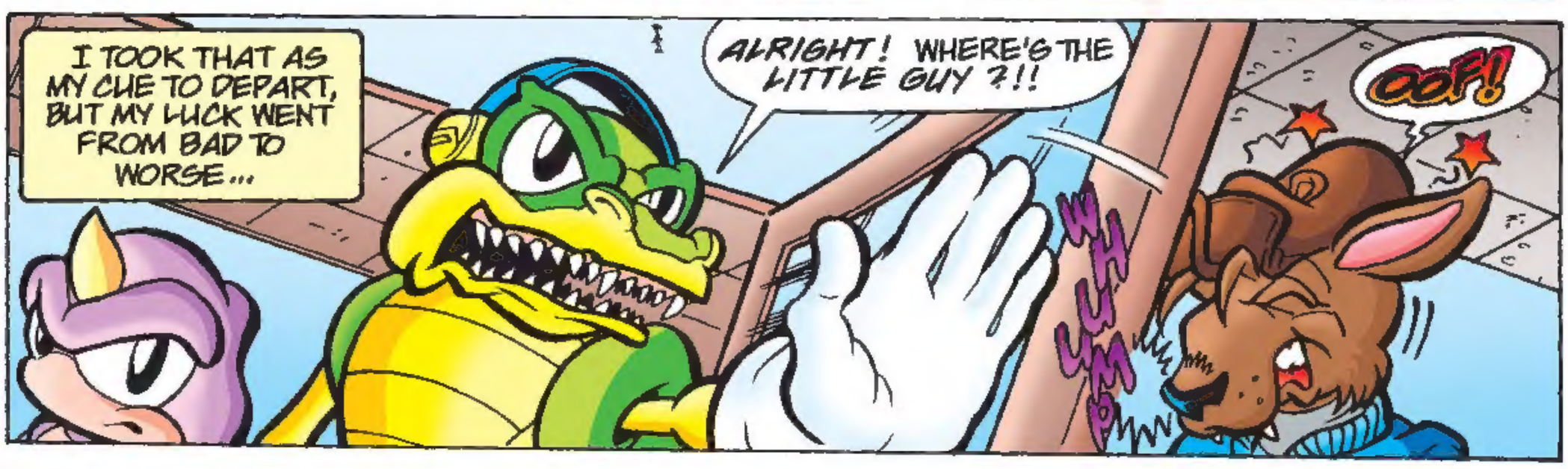
I RADIOED AHEAD SO THE DOCS WOULD BE WAITIN' WHEN WE ARRIVED...
THERE THEY ARE, KID!
ALL SET FOR US!

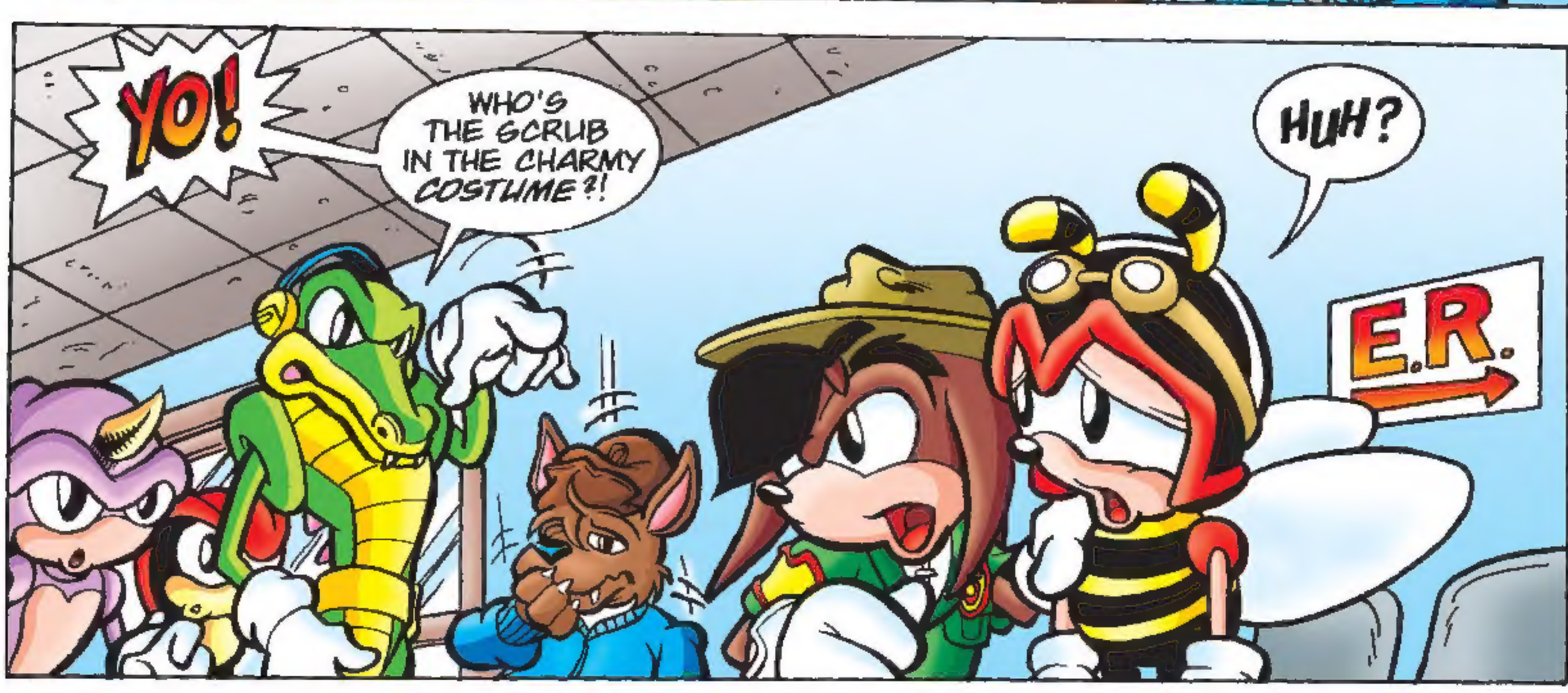

THE MED-TEAM WHEELED THE SICK ONE IMMEDIATELY INTO THE EMERGENCY ROOM--
-- WHILE HIS FRIEND STOOD AND WATCHED, FROZEN LIKE A STATUE, AS I WONDERED HOW TO SLIP AWAY WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING.

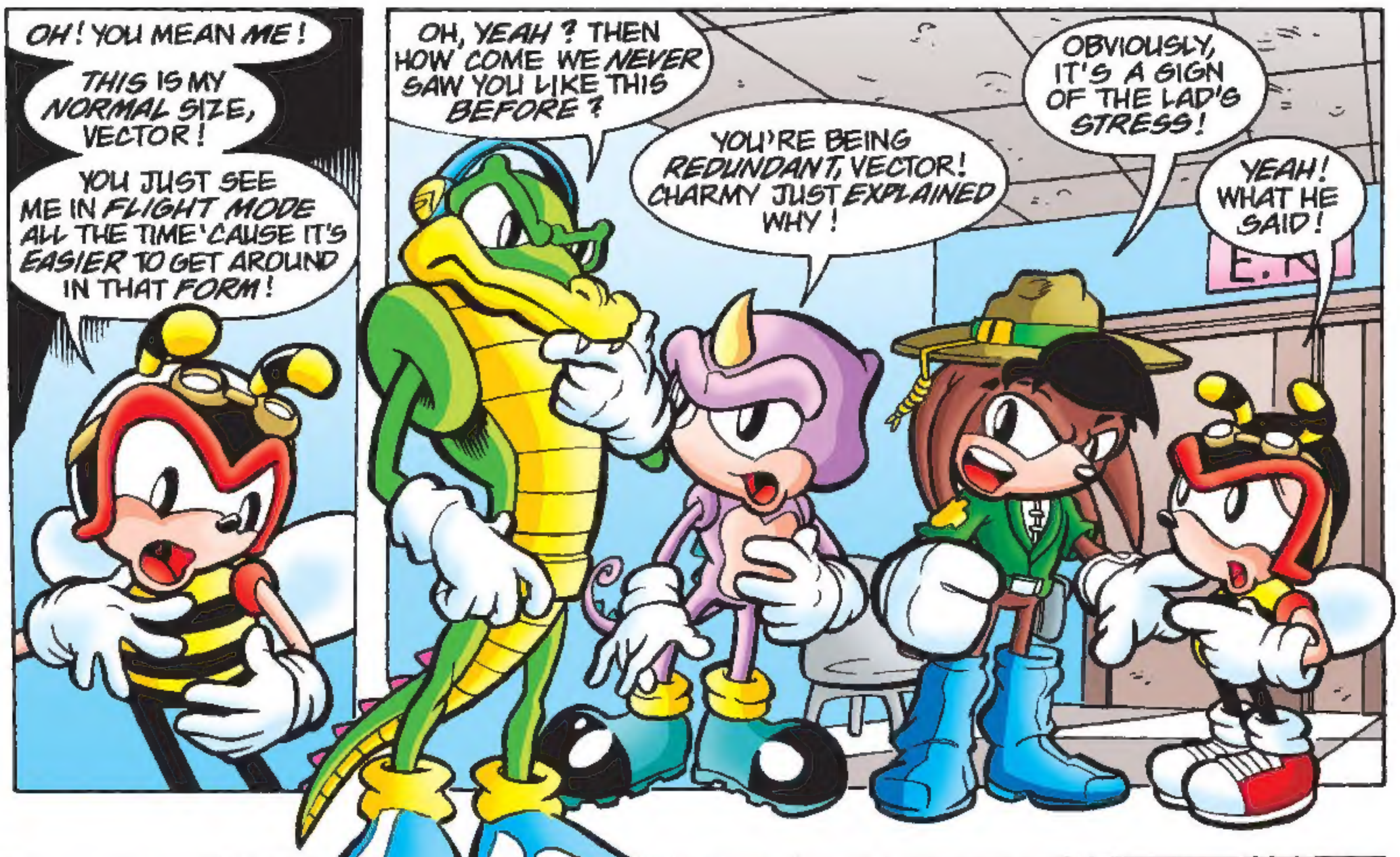
NO WAY DID I WANT TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR WHEN THE MUD FLEW!
HEY, KID-- uhh-- YOU GONNA BE OKAY?
OKAY! WELL--
SEE YOU AROUND.

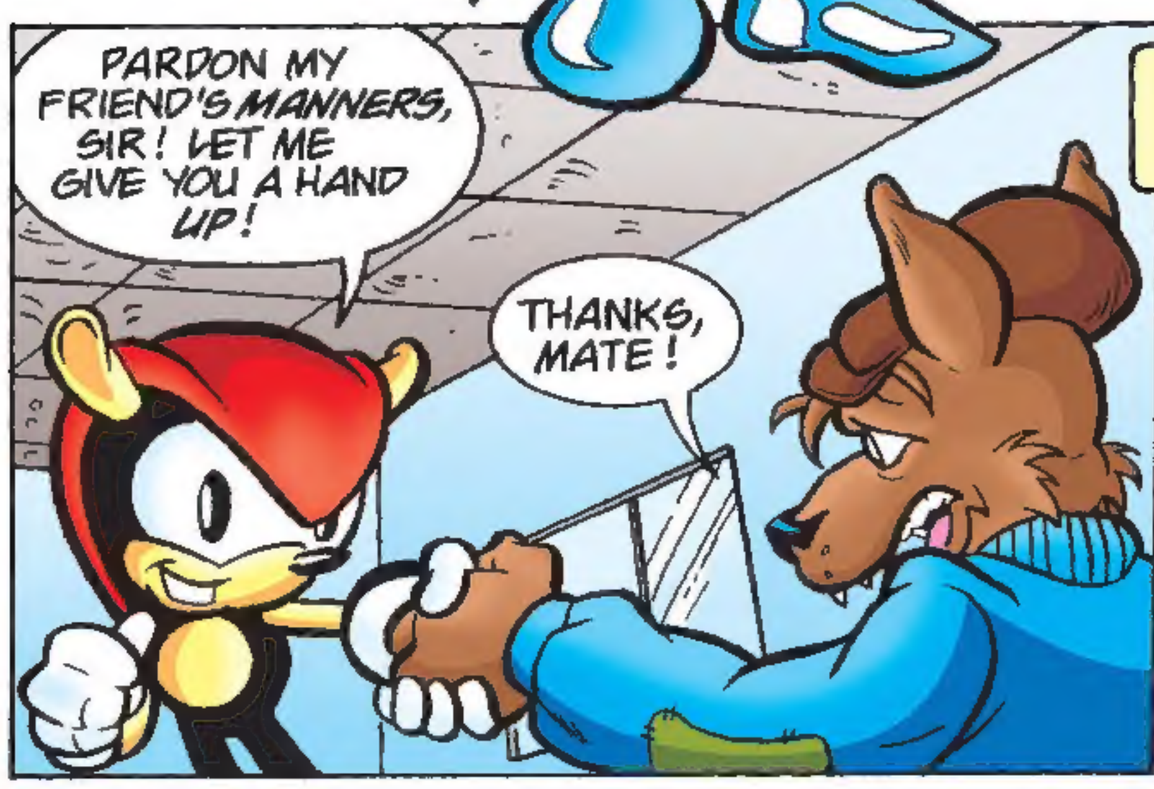

IT WAS THEN I KNEW I OVERSTAYED MY WELCOME.
CHARMY!!!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, LAD?
UH-OH!


THE HOSPITAL CONTACTED ME CONCERNING A VICTIM WHOSE DESCRIPTION MATCHED YOURS!
BUT HOW-?
CONSTABLE REMINGTON!!!

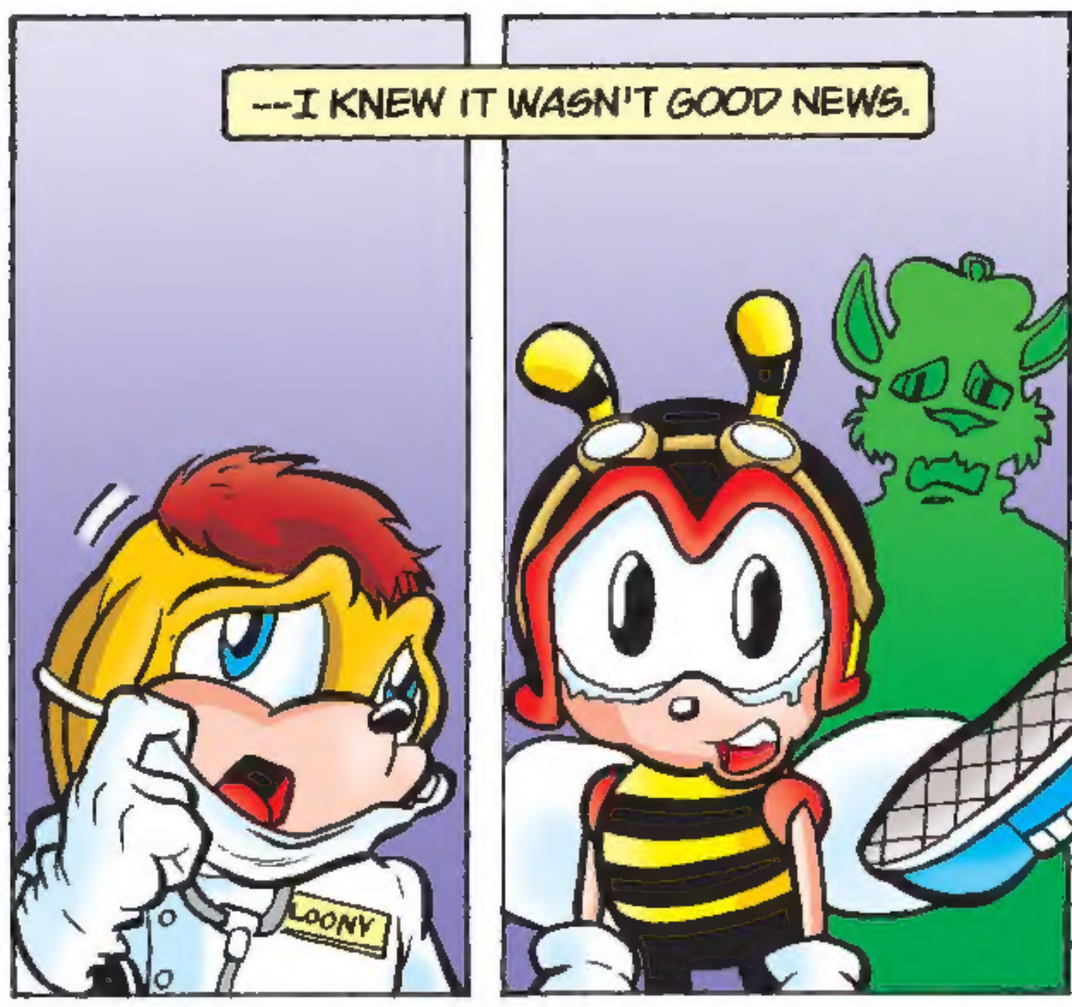

I TOOK THAT AS MY CUE TO DEPART, BUT MY LUCK WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE...
ALRIGHT! WHERE'S THE LITTLE GUY?!!
WHUMP
OOF!

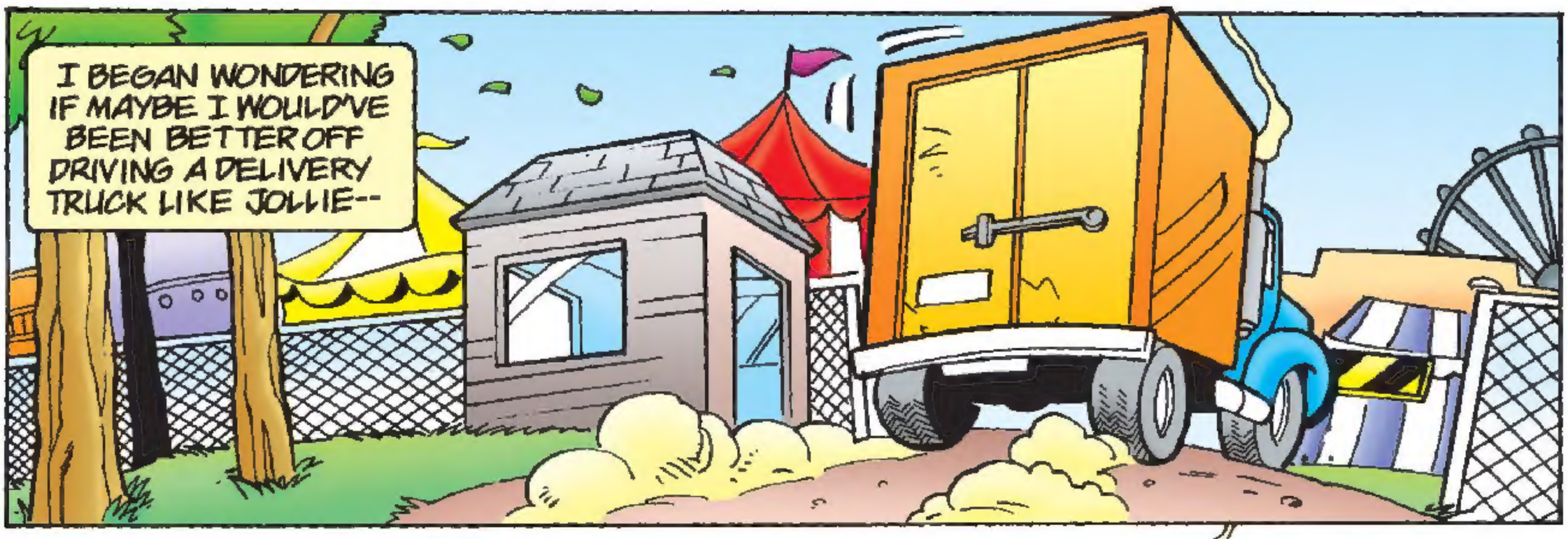

YO!
WHO'S THE SCRUB IN THE CHARMY COSTUME?!
HUH?
E.R.


OH! YOU MEAN ME!
THIS IS MY NORMAL SIZE, VECTOR!
YOU JUST SEE ME IN FLIGHT MODE ALL THE TIME 'CAUSE IT'S EASIER TO GET AROUND IN THAT FORM!
OH, YEAH? THEN HOW COME WE NEVER SAW YOU LIKE THIS BEFORE?
YOU'RE BEING REDUNDANT, VECTOR! CHARMY JUST EXPLAINED WHY!
OBVIOUSLY, IT'S A SIGN OF THE LAD'S STRESS!
YEAH! WHAT HE SAID!

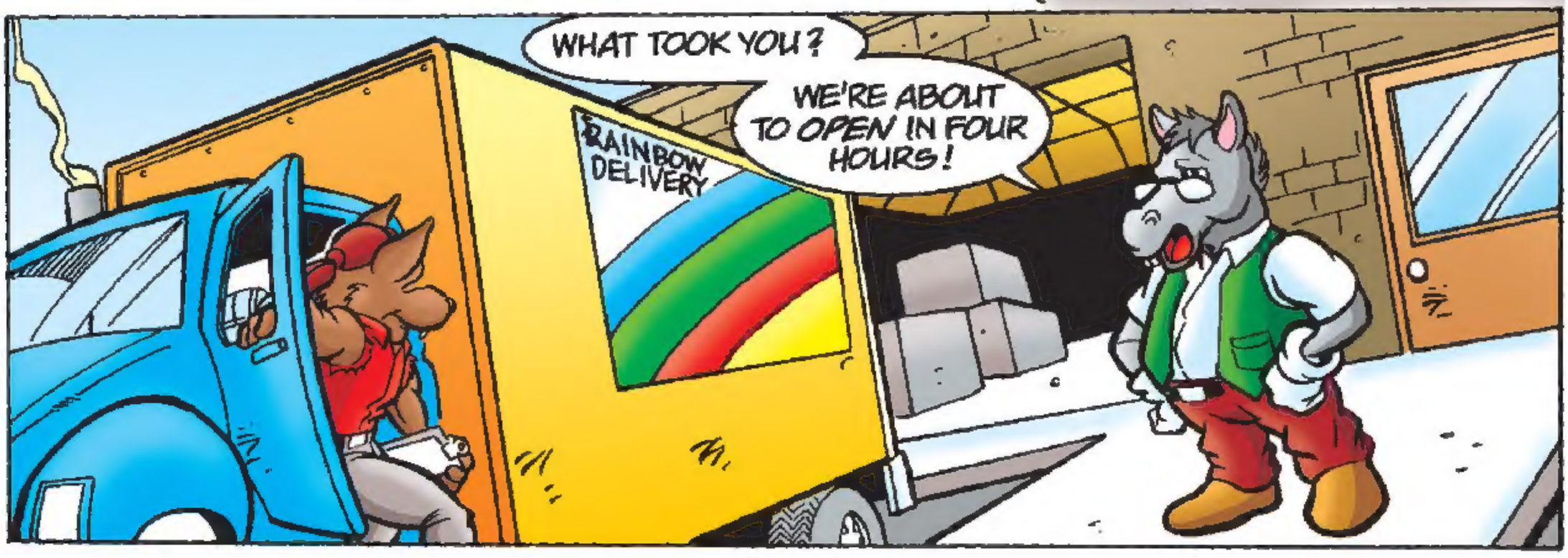

PARDON MY FRIEND'S MANNERS, SIR! LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND UP!
THANKS, MATE!

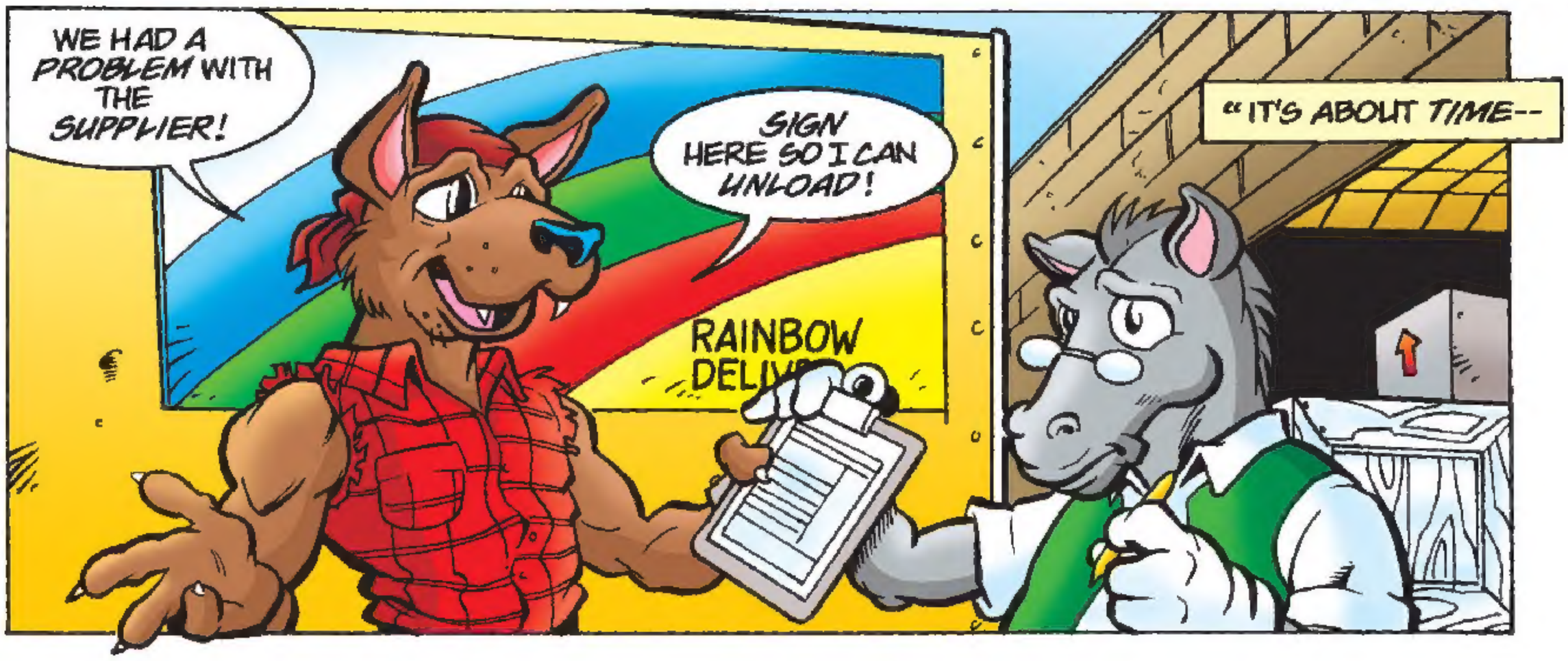
JUST THEN, LIKE A THUNDER-CLAP, THE DOCTOR EMERGED FROM THE OPERATING ROOM.
FROM THE WAY HE WALKED–


--I KNEW IT WASN'T GOOD NEWS.
LOONY

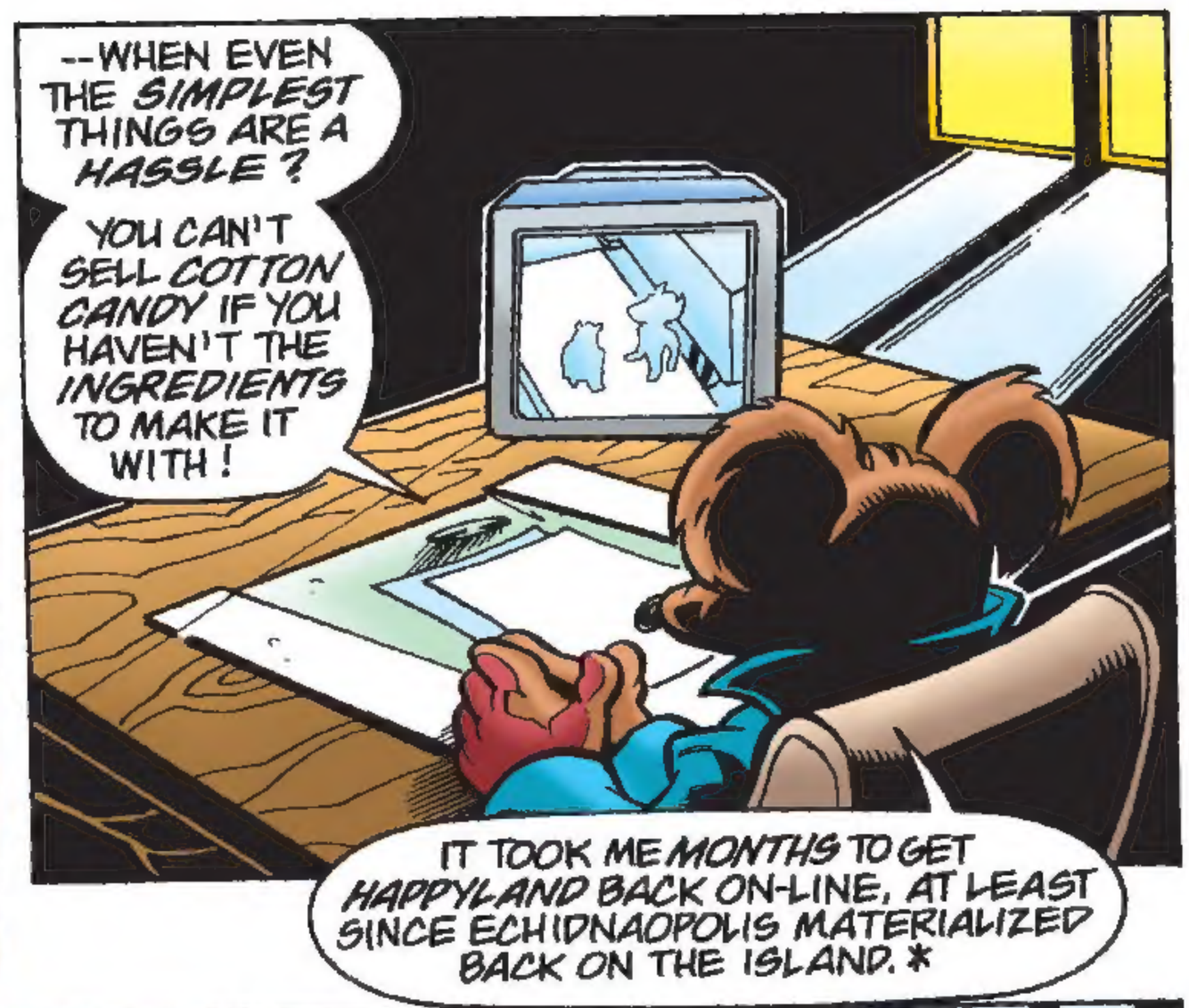

I BEGAN WONDERING IF MAYBE I WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER OFF DRIVING A DELIVERY TRUCK LIKE JOLLIE--

FOOD AND BEVERAGE SHIPMENT HERE, MATE!
DRIVEWAY THREE OVER THERE!

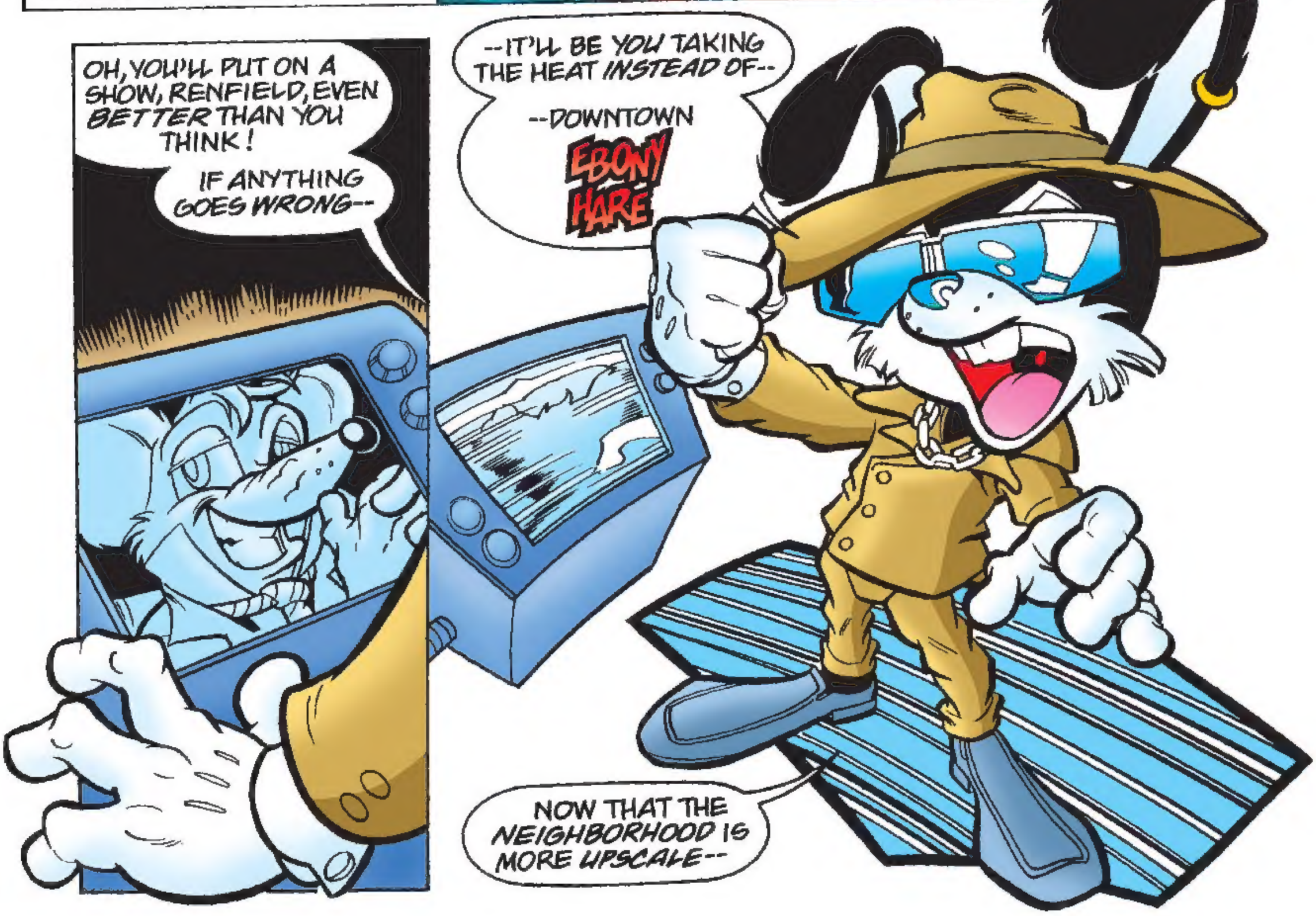

WHAT TOOK YOU?
WE'RE ABOUT TO OPEN IN FOUR HOURS!
RAINBOW DELIVERY

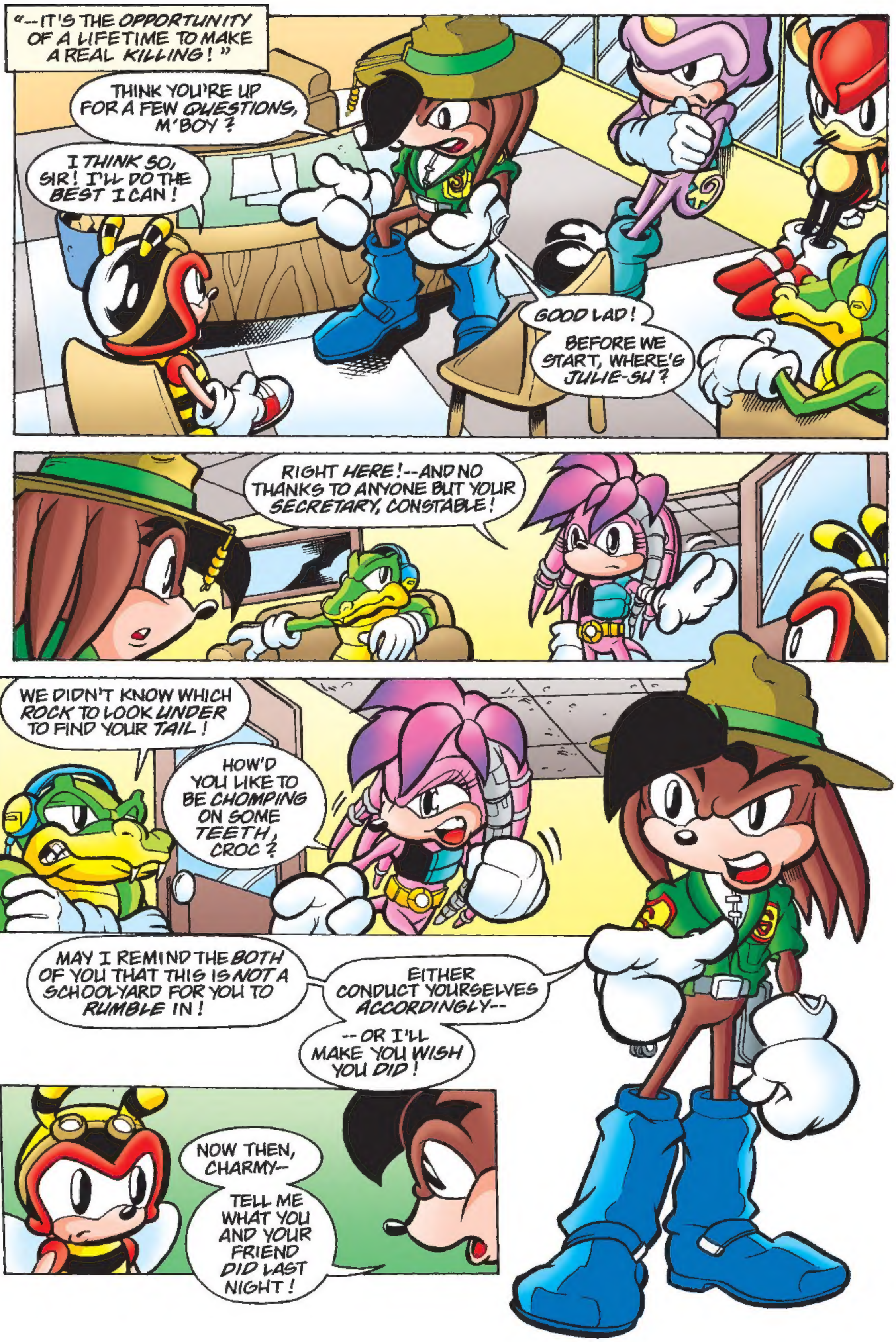

WE HAD A PROBLEM WITH THE SUPPLIER!
SIGN HERE SO I CAN UNLOAD!
RAINBOW DELIV
"IT'S ABOUT TIME--

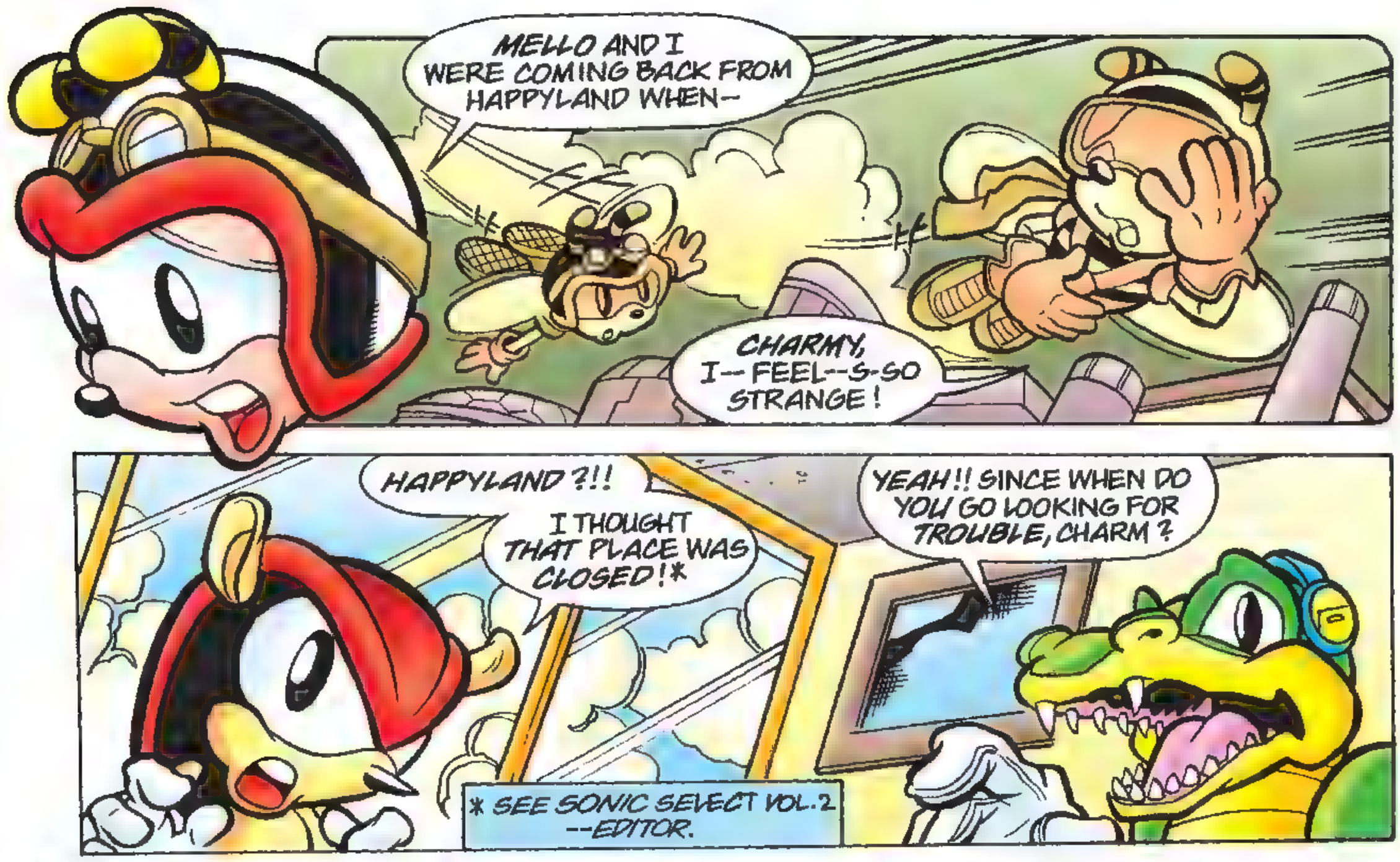
--THAT MY ORDER ARRIVED!
HOW'S A RAT SUPPOSED TO CONDUCT BUSINESS--

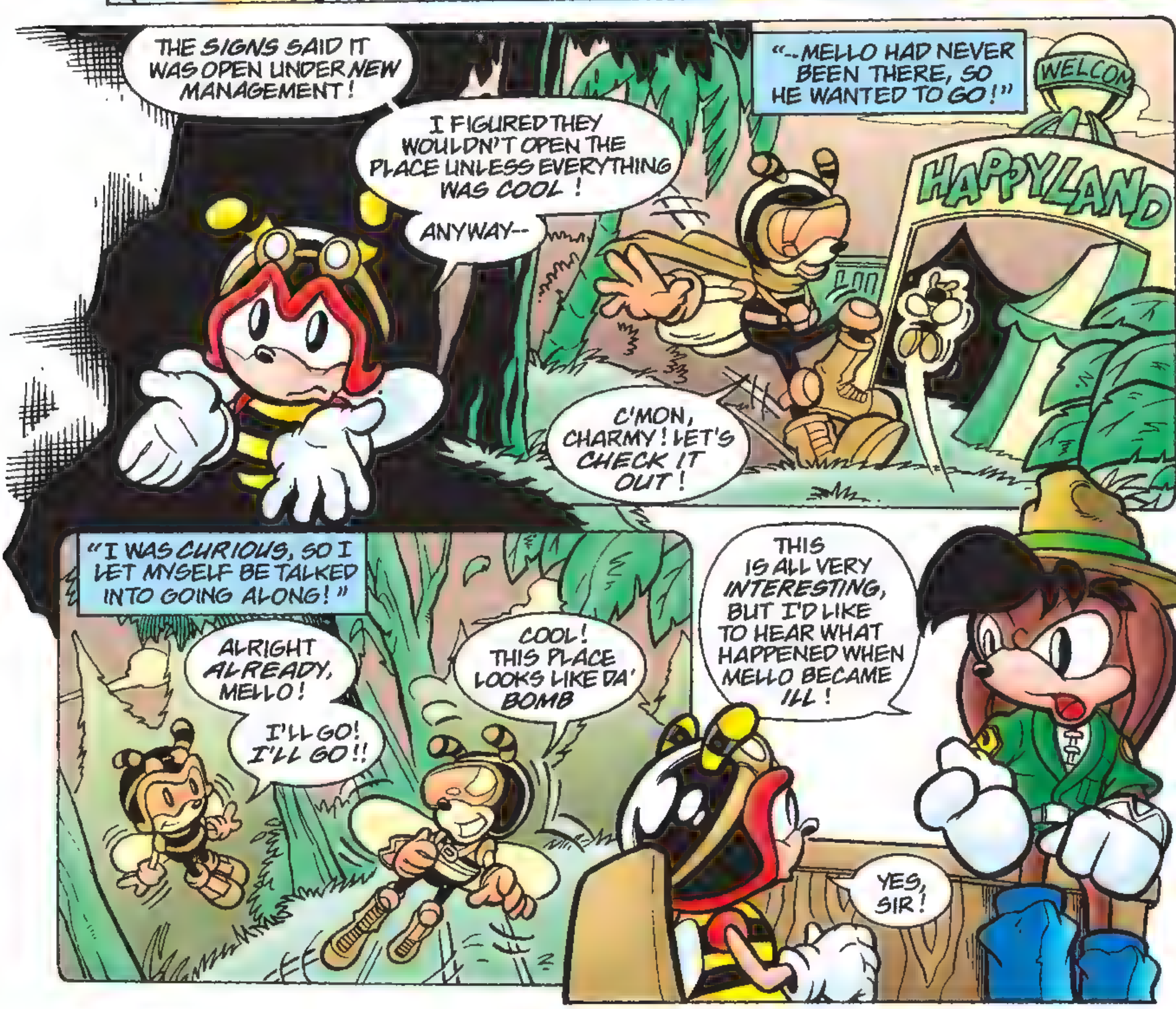

--WHEN EVEN THE SIMPLEST THINGS ARE A HASSLE?
YOU CAN'T SELL COTTON CANDY IF YOU HAVEN'T THE INGREDIENTS TO MAKE IT WITH!
IT TOOK ME MONTHS TO GET HAPPYLAND BACK ON-LINE, AT LEAST SINCE ECHIDNAOPOLIS MATERIALIZED BACK ON THE ISLAND.*

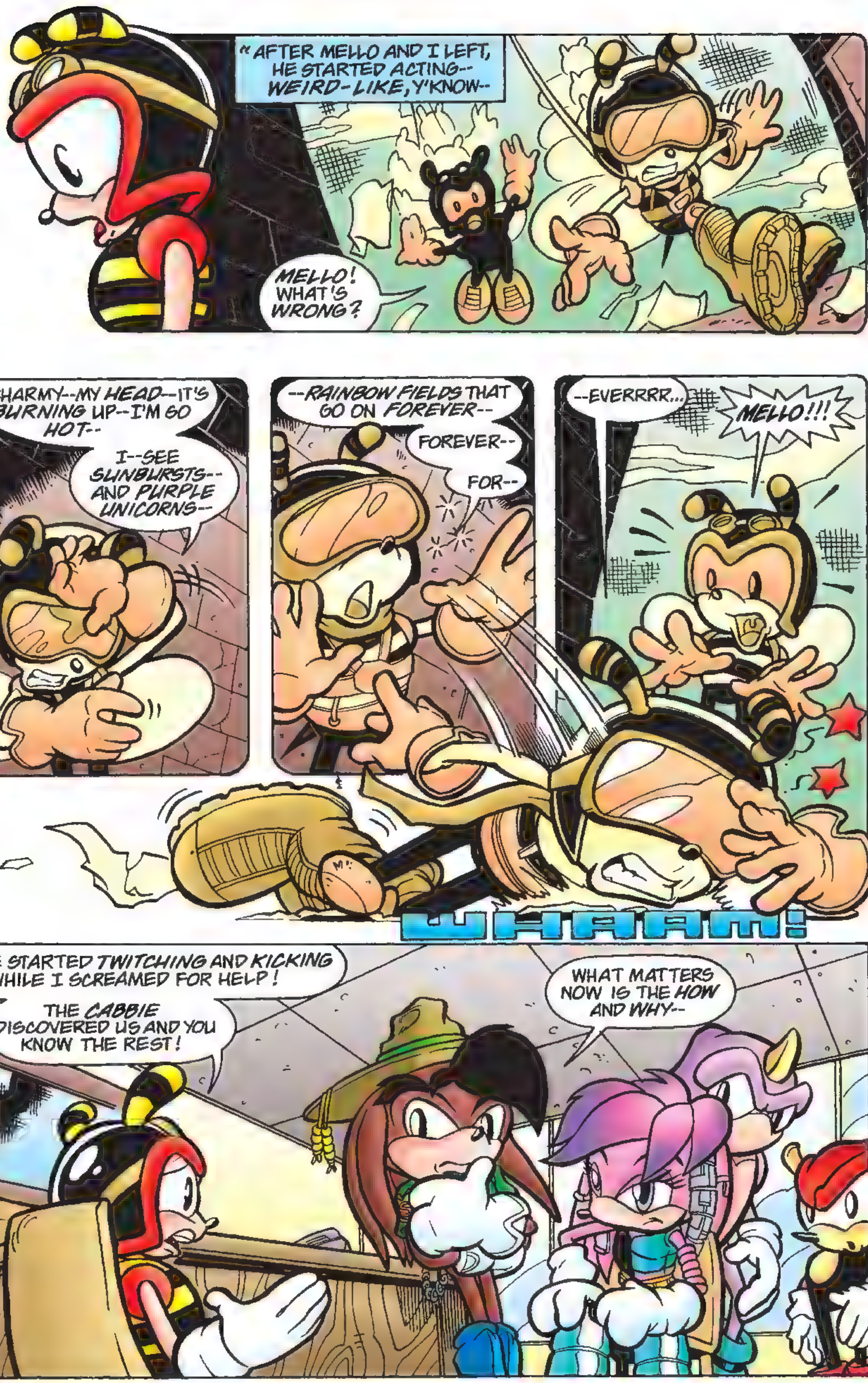
AND NOW WITH OUR OFFICIAL RE-OPENING MERE DAYS AWAY FOR A WHOLE NEW CROWD OF ECHIDNAS--
--RENFIELD THE RODENT IS NOT ONE TO PUT ON ANYTHING LESS THAN A REEEEAALLY GRRRREEAAT SHEEEE-OOOWW!!
* ECHIDNAOPOLIS MATERIALIZED BACK ON ANGEL ISLAND IN KNUCKLES ARCHIVES VOL. 2 --EDITOR

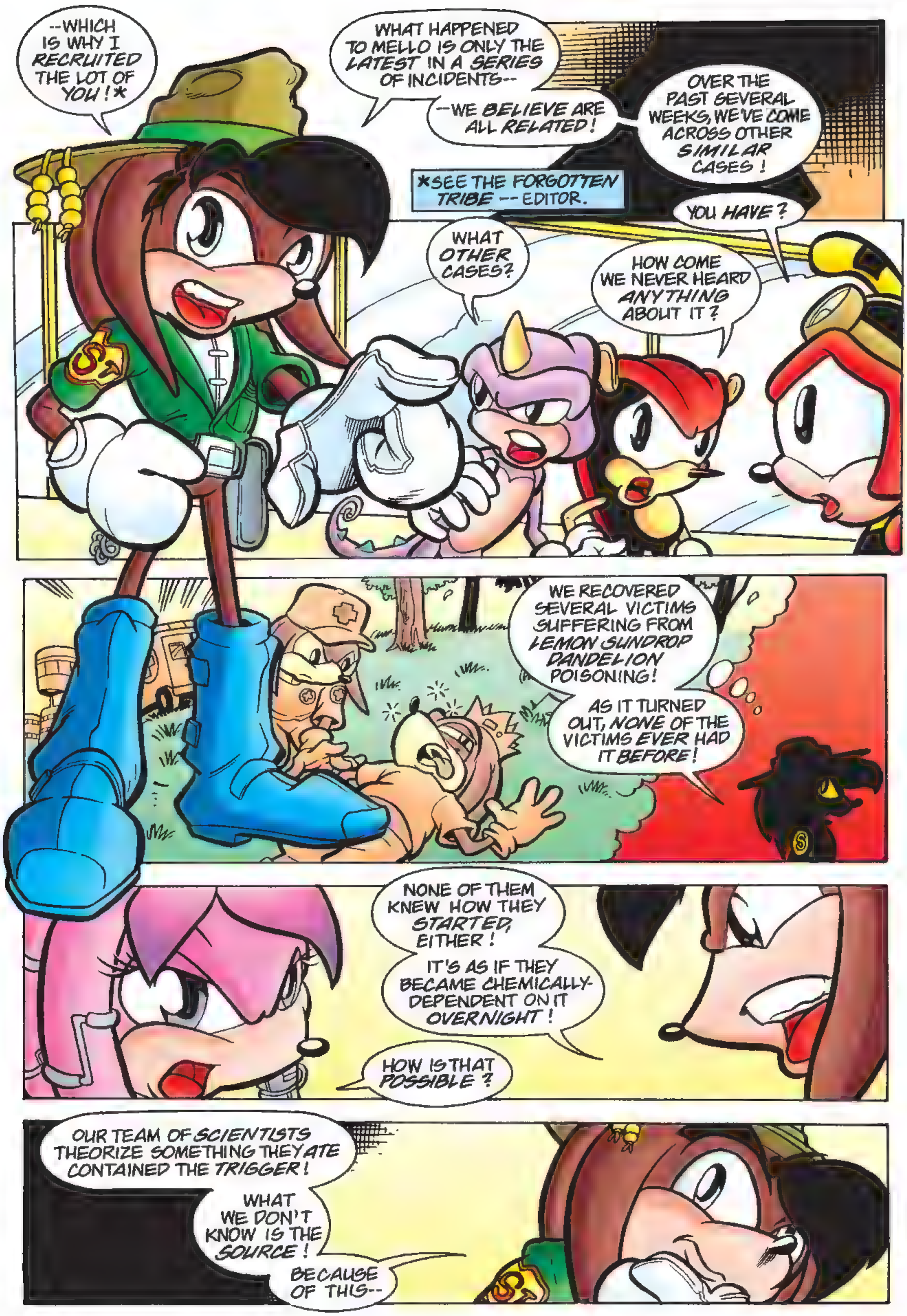

OH, YOU'LL PUT ON A SHOW, RENFIELD, EVEN BETTER THAN YOU THINK!
IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG--
--IT'LL BE YOU TAKING THE HEAT INSTEAD OF--
--DOWNTOWN EBONY HARE
NOW THAT THE NEIGHBORHOOD IS MORE UPSCALE--

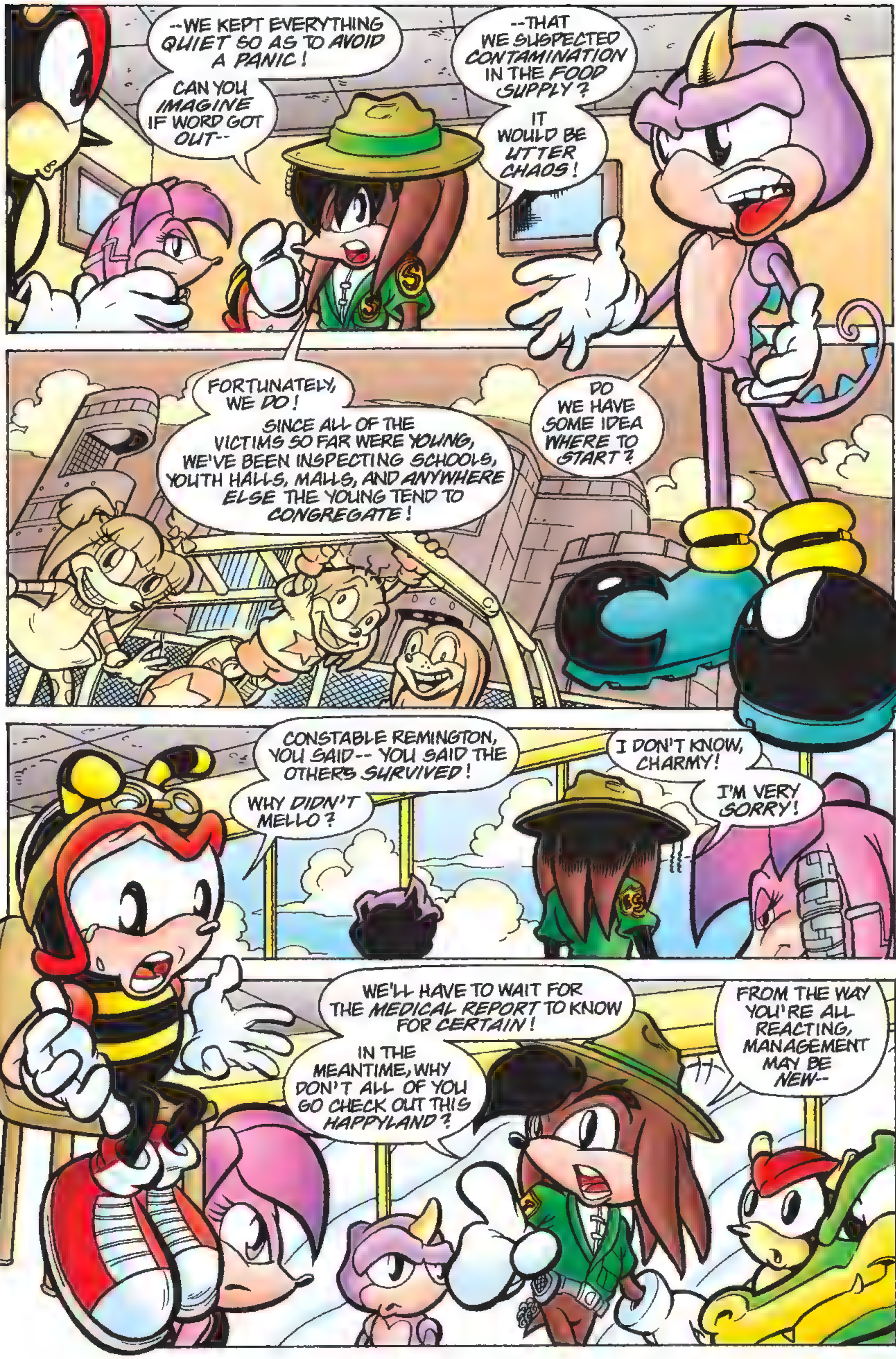

"--IT'S THE OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME TO MAKE A REAL KILLING!"
THINK YOU'RE UP FOR A FEW QUESTIONS, M'BOY?
I THINK SO, SIR! I'LL DO THE BEST I CAN!
GOOD LAD!
BEFORE WE START, WHERE'S JULIE-SU?
RIGHT HERE!--AND NO THANKS TO ANYONE BUT YOUR SECRETARY, CONSTABLE!
WE DIDN'T KNOW WHICH ROCK TO LOOK UNDER TO FIND YOUR TAIL!
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO BE CHOMPING ON SOME TEETH, CROC?
MAY I REMIND THE BOTH OF YOU THAT THIS IS NOT A SCHOOLYARD FOR YOU TO RUMBLE IN!
EITHER CONDUCT YOURSELVES ACCORDINGLY--
--OR I'LL MAKE YOU WISH YOU DID!
NOW THEN, CHARMY--
TELL ME WHAT YOU AND YOUR FRIEND DID LAST NIGHT!


MELLO AND I WERE COMING BACK FROM HAPPYLAND WHEN--
CHARMY, I--FEEL--S-SO STRANGE!
HAPPYLAND?!!
I THOUGHT THAT PLACE WAS CLOSED!*
YEAH!! SINCE WHEN DO YOU GO LOOKING FOR TROUBLE, CHARM?
* SEE SONIC SEVECT VOL.2 --EDITOR.


THE SIGNS SAID IT WAS OPEN UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!
I FIGURED THEY WOULDN'T OPEN THE PLACE UNLESS EVERYTHING WAS COOL!
ANYWAY--
"--MELLO HAD NEVER BEEN THERE, SO HE WANTED TO GO!"
WELCOM
HAPPYLAND
C'MON, CHARMY! LET'S CHECK IT OUT!
"I WAS CURIOUS, SO I LET MYSELF BE TALKED INTO GOING ALONG!"
ALRIGHT ALREADY, MELLO!
I'LL GO! I'LL GO!!
COOL! THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE DA' BOMB
THIS IS ALL VERY INTERESTING, BUT I'D LIKE TO HEAR WHAT HAPPENED WHEN MELLO BECAME ILL!
YES, SIR!


"AFTER MELLO AND I LEFT, HE STARTED ACTING-- WEIRD-LIKE, Y'KNOW--
MELLO! WHAT'S WRONG?
CHARMY--MY HEAD--IT'S BURNING UP--I'M SO HOT--
I--SEE SUNBURSTS-- AND PURPLE UNICORNS--
--RAINBOW FIELDS THAT GO ON FOREVER--
FOREVER--
FOR--
--EVERRRR...
MELLO!!!
WHAAAM!
HE STARTED TWITCHING AND KICKING WHILE I SCREAMED FOR HELP!
THE CABBIE DISCOVERED US AND YOU KNOW THE REST!
WHAT MATTERS NOW IS THE HOW AND WHY--


--WHICH IS WHY I RECRUITED THE LOT OF YOU!*
WHAT HAPPENED TO MELLO IS ONLY THE LATEST IN A SERIES OF INCIDENTS--
--WE BELIEVE ARE ALL RELATED!
OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, WE'VE COME ACROSS OTHER SIMILAR CASES!
*SEE THE FORGOTTEN TRIBE -- EDITOR.
YOU HAVE?
WHAT OTHER CASES?
HOW COME WE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
WE RECOVERED SEVERAL VICTIMS SUFFERING FROM LEMON SUNDROP DANDELION POISONING!
AS IT TURNED OUT, NONE OF THE VICTIMS EVER HAD IT BEFORE!
NONE OF THEM KNEW HOW THEY STARTED, EITHER!
IT'S AS IF THEY BECAME CHEMICALLY-DEPENDENT ON IT OVERNIGHT!
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
OUR TEAM OF SCIENTISTS THEORIZE SOMETHING THEY ATE CONTAINED THE TRIGGER!
WHAT WE DON'T KNOW IS THE SOURCE!
BECAUSE OF THIS--


--WE KEPT EVERYTHING QUIET SO AS TO AVOID A PANIC!
CAN YOU IMAGINE IF WORD GOT OUT--
--THAT WE SUSPECTED CONTAMINATION IN THE FOOD SUPPLY?
IT WOULD BE UTTER CHAOS!
FORTUNATELY, WE DO!
SINCE ALL OF THE VICTIMS SO FAR WERE YOUNG, WE'VE BEEN INSPECTING SCHOOLS, YOUTH HALLS, MALLS, AND ANYWHERE ELSE THE YOUNG TEND TO CONGREGATE!
DO WE HAVE SOME IDEA WHERE TO START?
CONSTABLE REMINGTON, YOU SAID-- YOU SAID THE OTHERS SURVIVED!
WHY DIDN'T MELLO?
I DON'T KNOW, CHARMY!
I'M VERY SORRY!
WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE MEDICAL REPORT TO KNOW FOR CERTAIN!
IN THE MEANTIME, WHY DON'T ALL OF YOU GO CHECK OUT THIS HAPPYLAND?
FROM THE WAY YOU'RE ALL REACTING, MANAGEMENT MAY BE NEW--

"--BUT IT COULD BE A COVER FOR THE GAME OLD DIRTY TRICKS!"

YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT THOSE SCREENS FOR HOURS, LOCKE!

GIVE IT A REST!

I CAN'T!

WITH KNUCKLES AWAY, SOMEONE HAS TO PICK UP THE SLACK!

SPEAKING OF MY GRANDSON, HAVE WE ANY IDEA WHERE HE IS?

I BELIEVE HE'S COMING INTO RANGE OF SATELLITE 37--

--RIGHT NOW!

OH, NO! THIS DOESN'T BODE WELL!

SWITCHING TO ULTRA-ZOOM!

IT'S WORSE THAN I FEARED!

KNUCKLES IS MAKING HIS WAY ACROSS THE BADLANDS!

HOW IN BLAZES DID HE END UP THERE?*

HEY!

I HEAR SOME KINDA SOUND-- OFF IN THE DISTANCE!

* THEY MIGHT NOT KNOW, BUT WE DO! SEE EARLIER IN THIS VOLUME AND SONIC ARCHIVES VOL. 15 FOR THE FULL SCOOP! --EDITOR

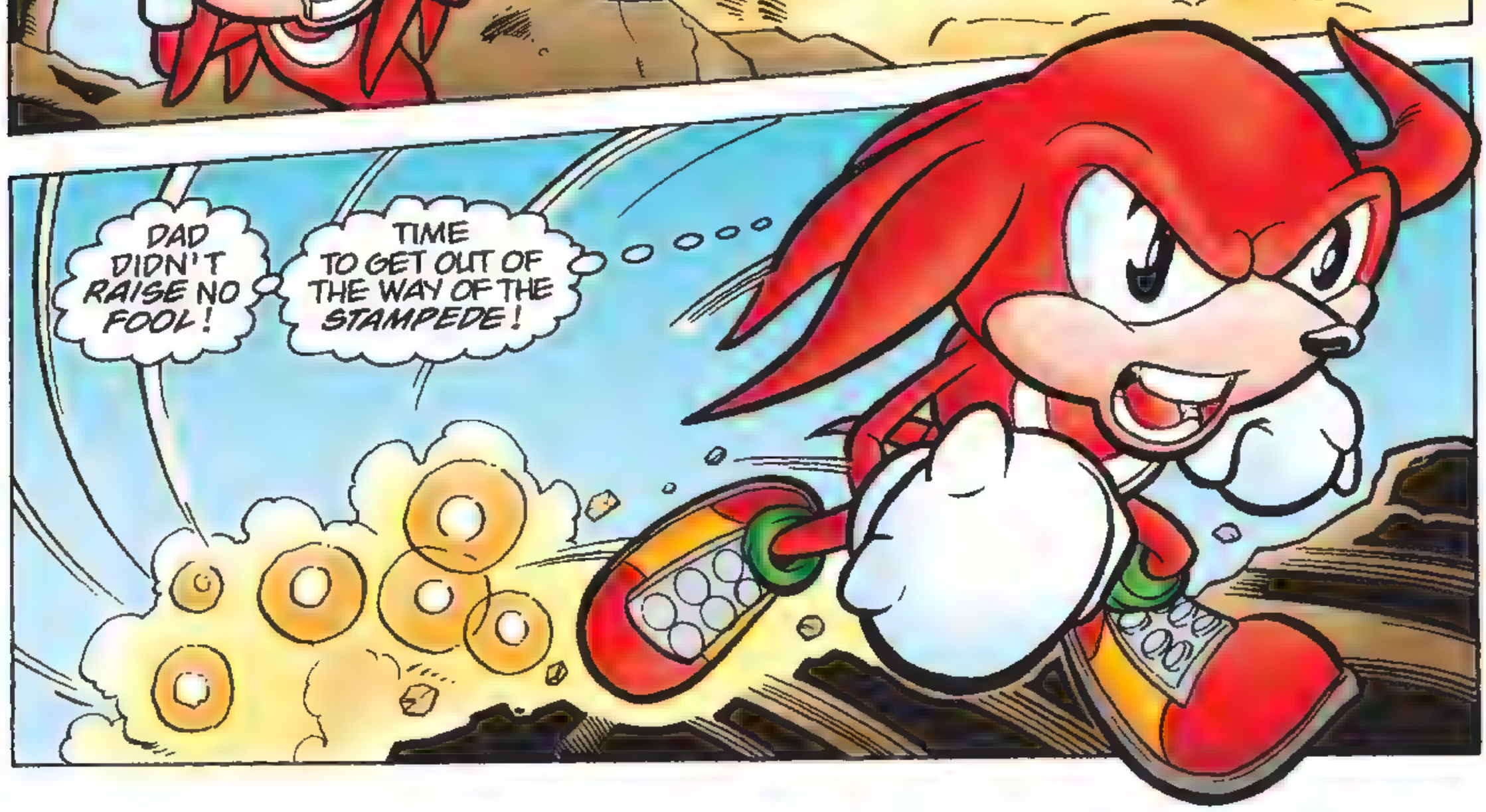
" NEVER MIND THAT! WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM OUT OF THERE BEFORE--"

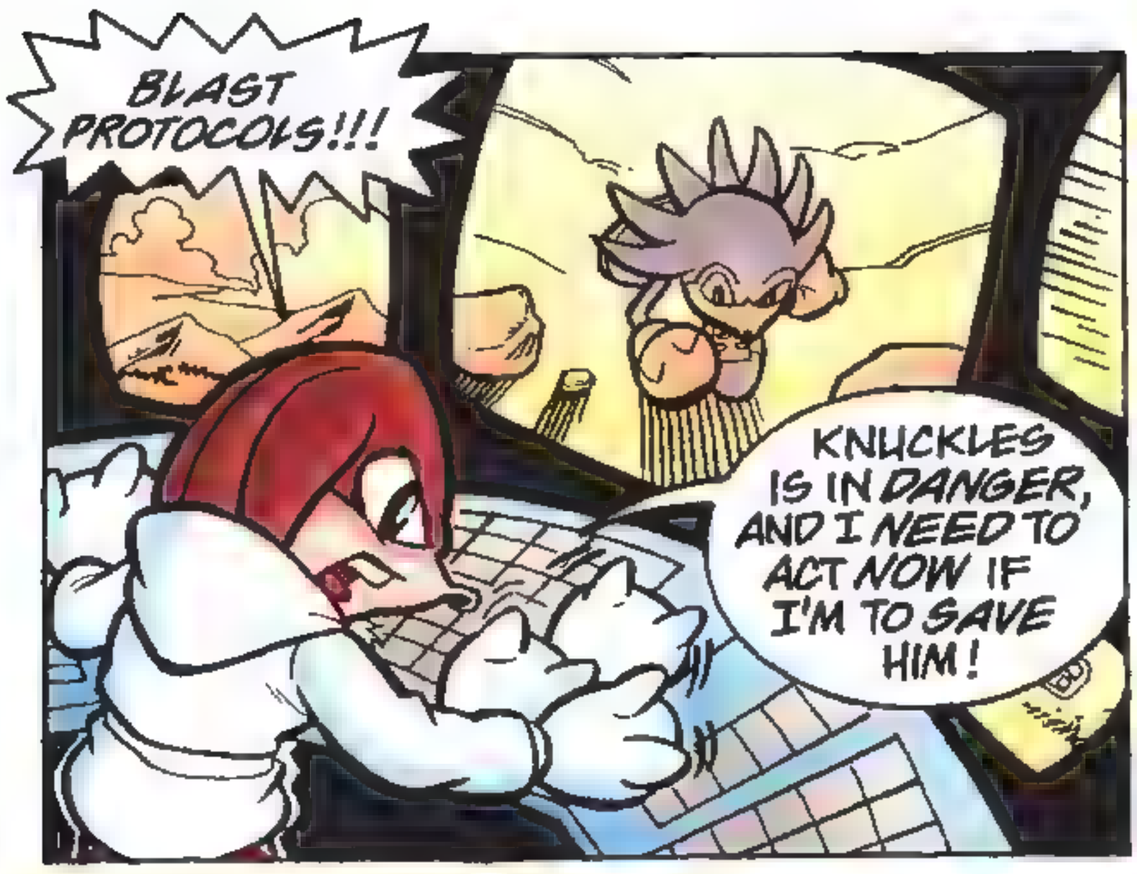
WHATEVER IT IS, IS GETTING LOUDER!
SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF WHATEVER IT IS!

BUT WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?
IT'S ALL OVER THE PLACE!

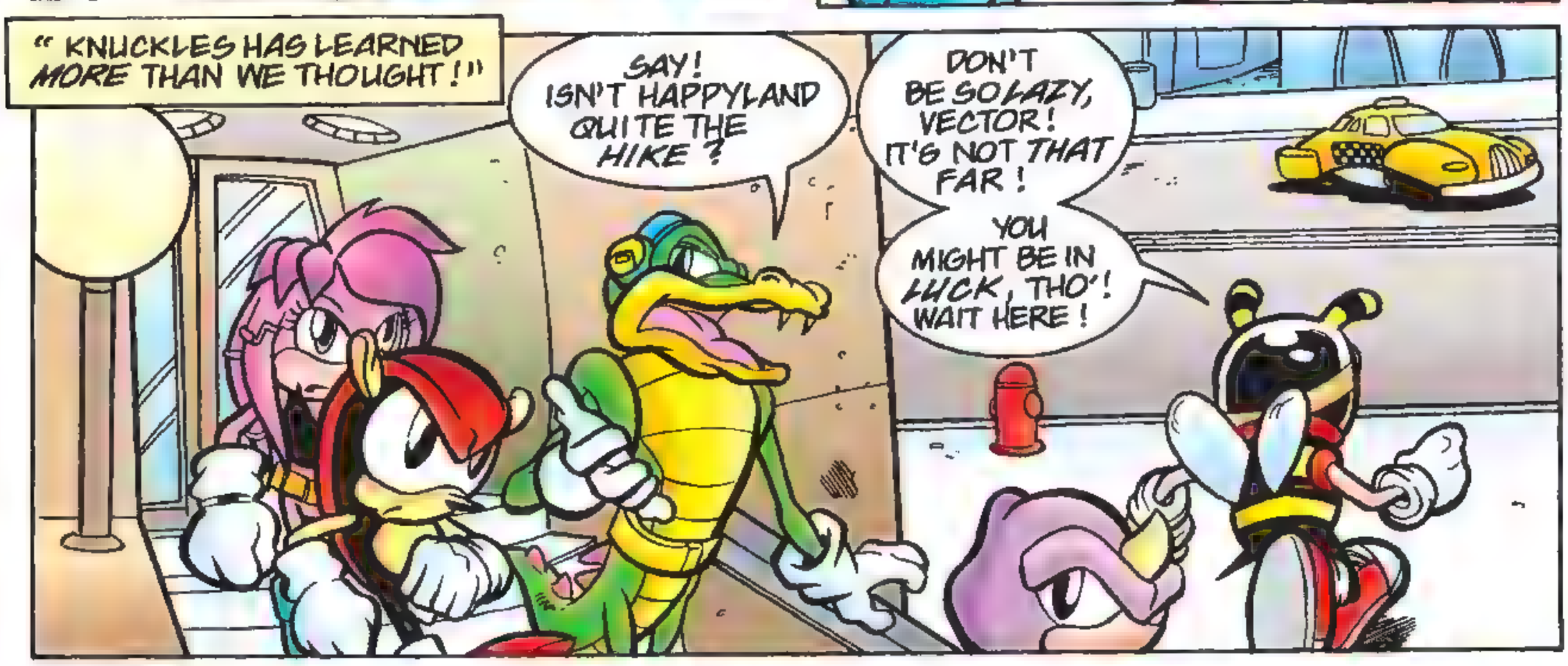
I CAN BARELY HEAR MYSELF!
IT'S SO LOUD--
--IT'S STARTING TO HURT!

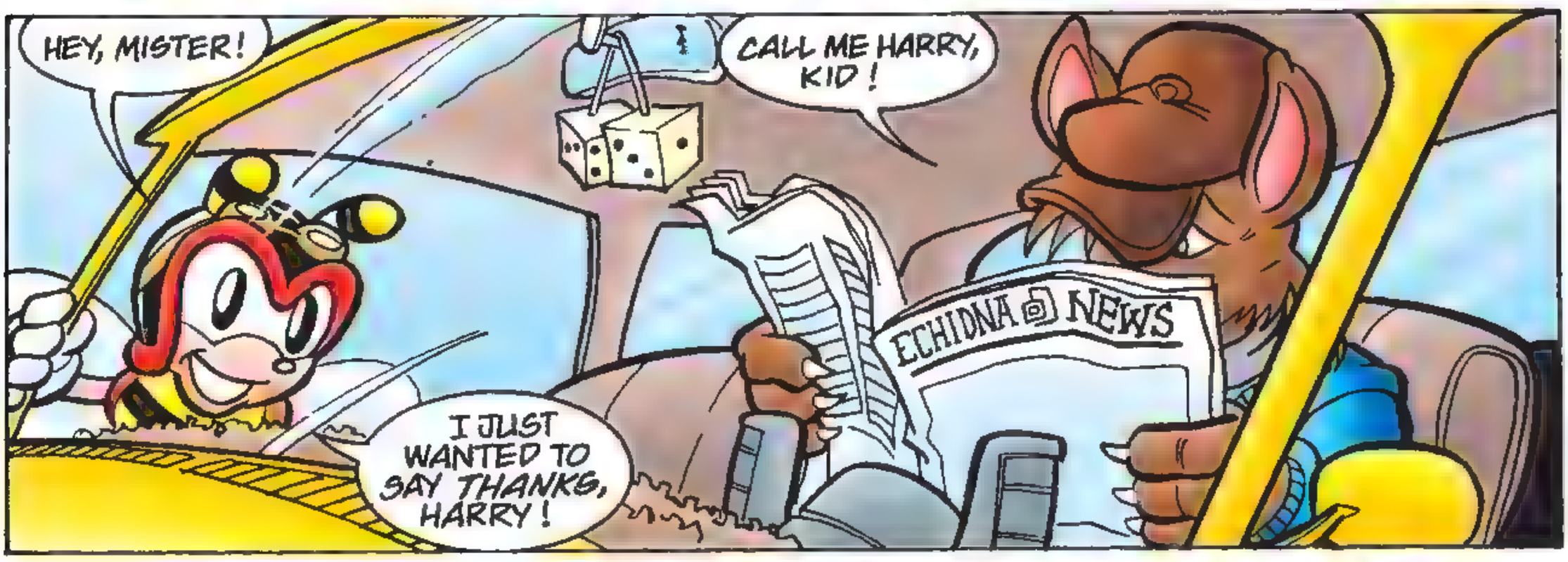
NOW LIGHTS--
--OFF IN THE DISTANCE--
--COMING TOWARDS ME!!

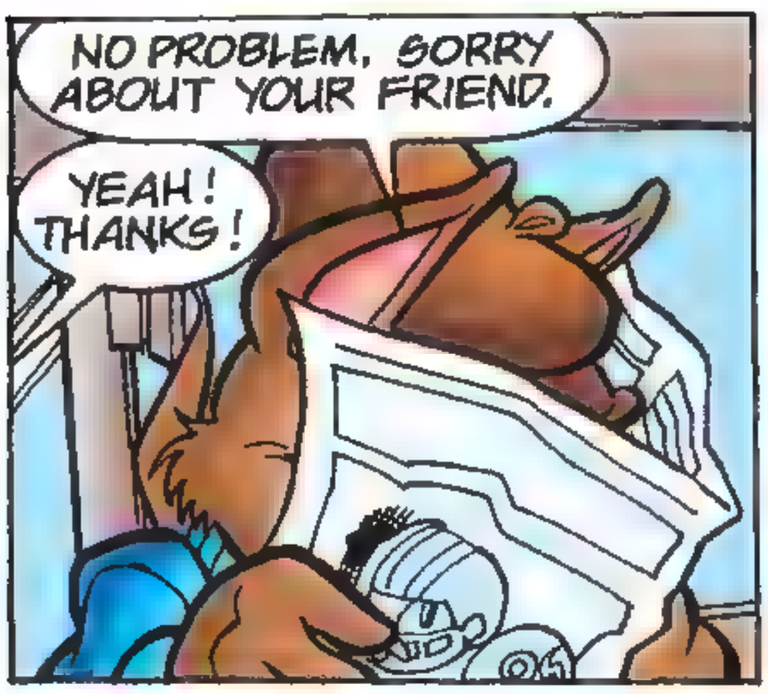

DAD DIDN'T RAISE NO FOOL!
TIME TO GET OUT OF THE WAY OF THE STAMPEDE!

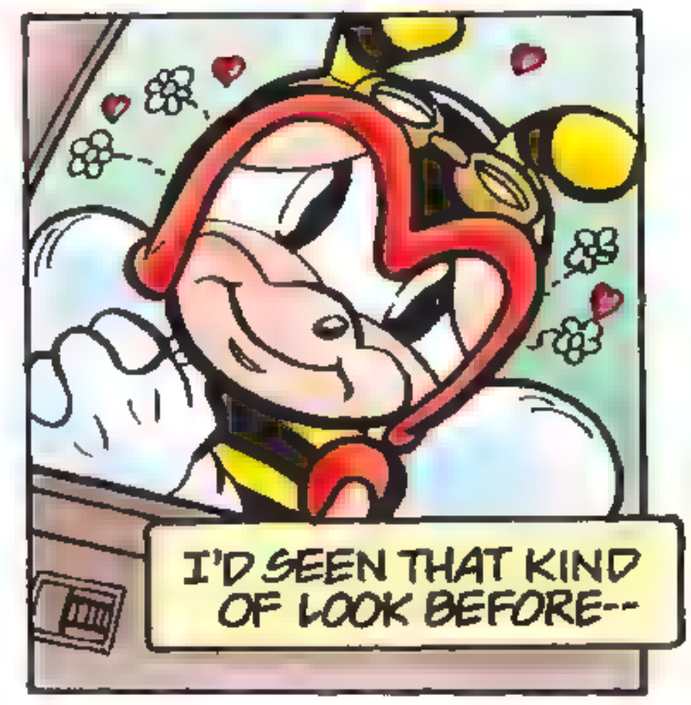

BLAST PROTOCOLS!!!
KNUCKLES IS IN DANGER, AND I NEED TO ACT NOW IF I'M TO SAVE HIM!

WAIT!!!
IS KNUCKLES--?
YOU SEE AS WELL AS I, FATHER!

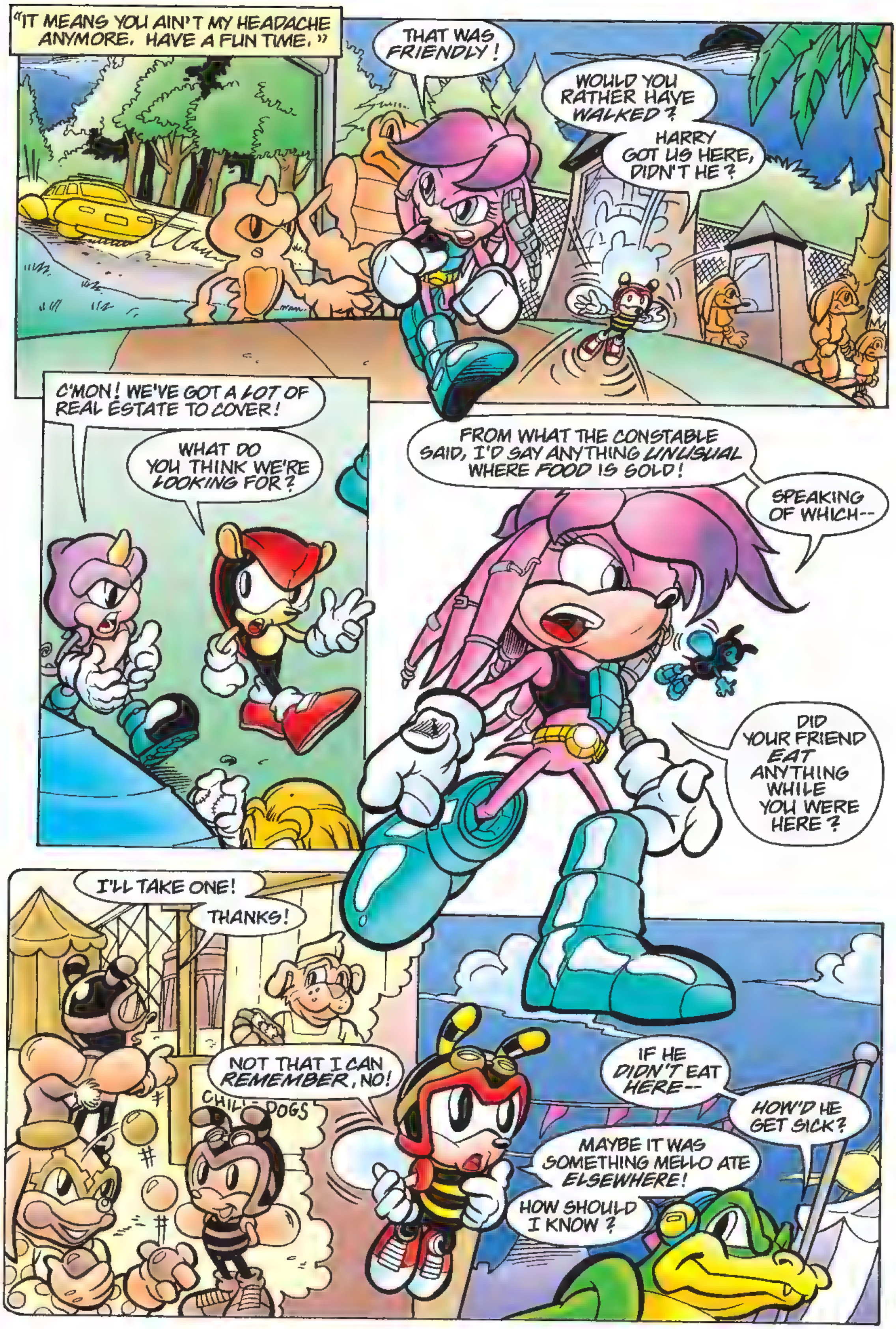

" KNUCKLES HAS LEARNED MORE THAN WE THOUGHT!"
SAY! ISN'T HAPPYLAND QUITE THE HIKE?
DON'T BE SO LAZY, VECTOR! IT'S NOT THAT FAR!
YOU MIGHT BE IN LUCK, THO'! WAIT HERE!

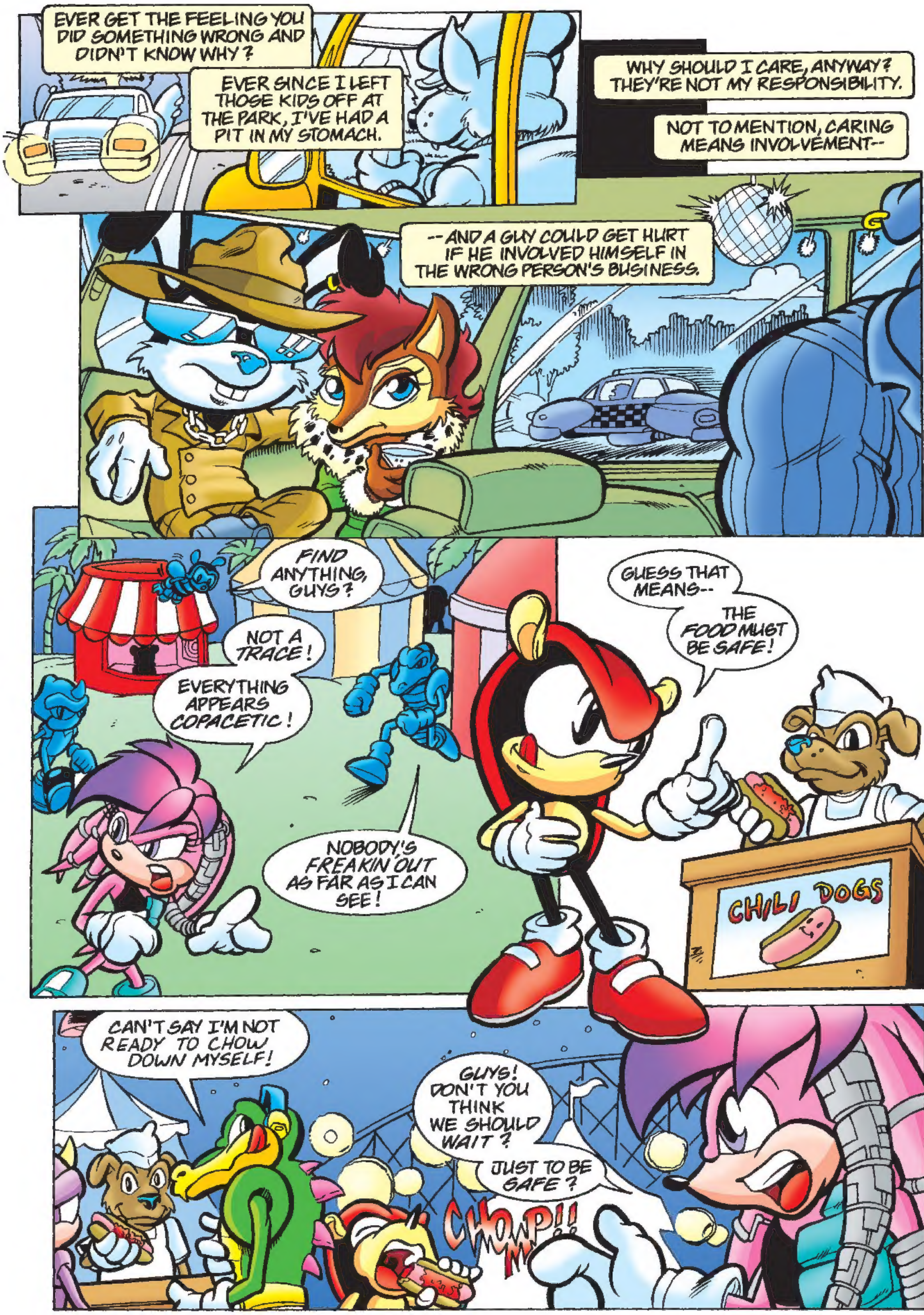

HEY, MISTER!
CALL ME HARRY, KID!
ECHIDNA NEWS
I JUST WANTED TO SAY THANKS, HARRY!


NO PROBLEM. SORRY ABOUT YOUR FRIEND.
YEAH! THANKS!

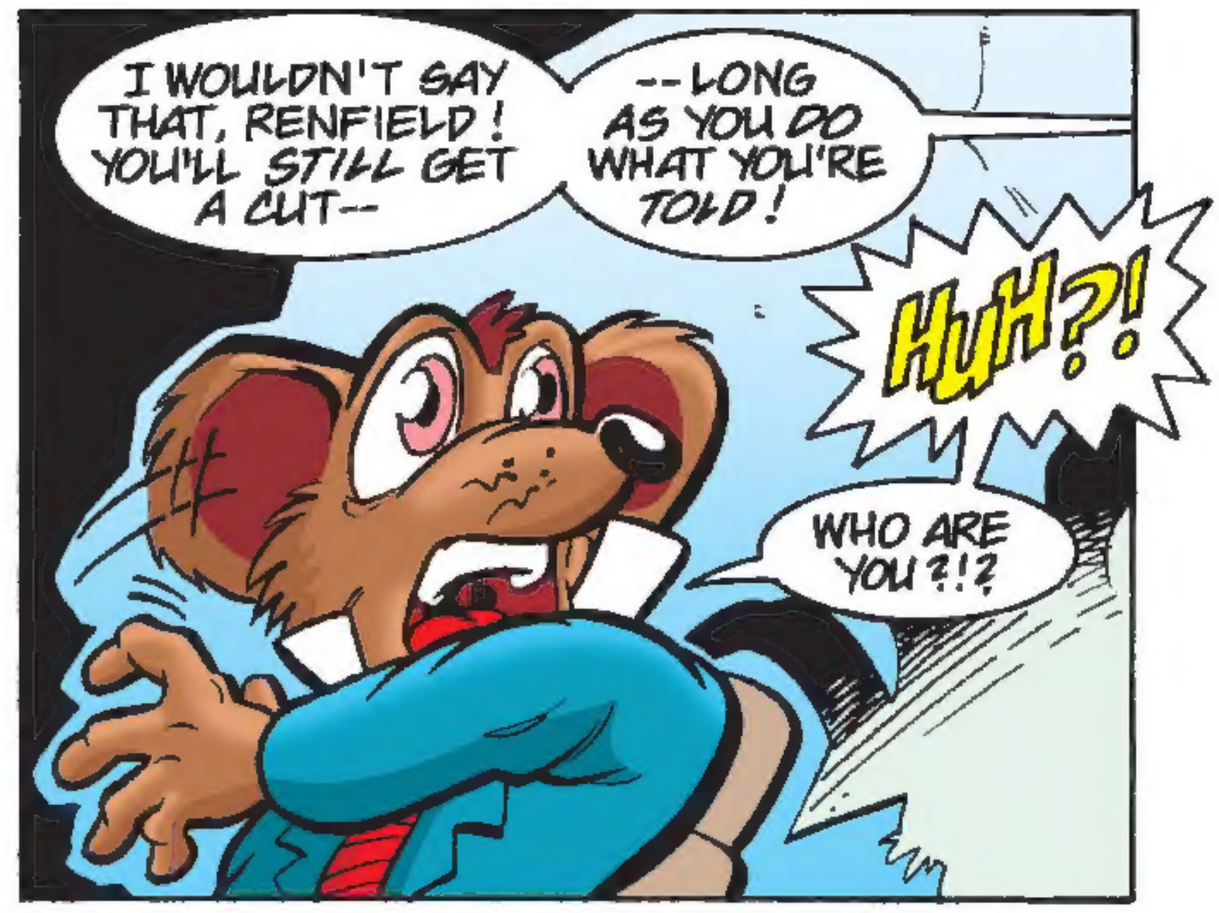

I'D SEEN THAT KIND OF LOOK BEFORE--

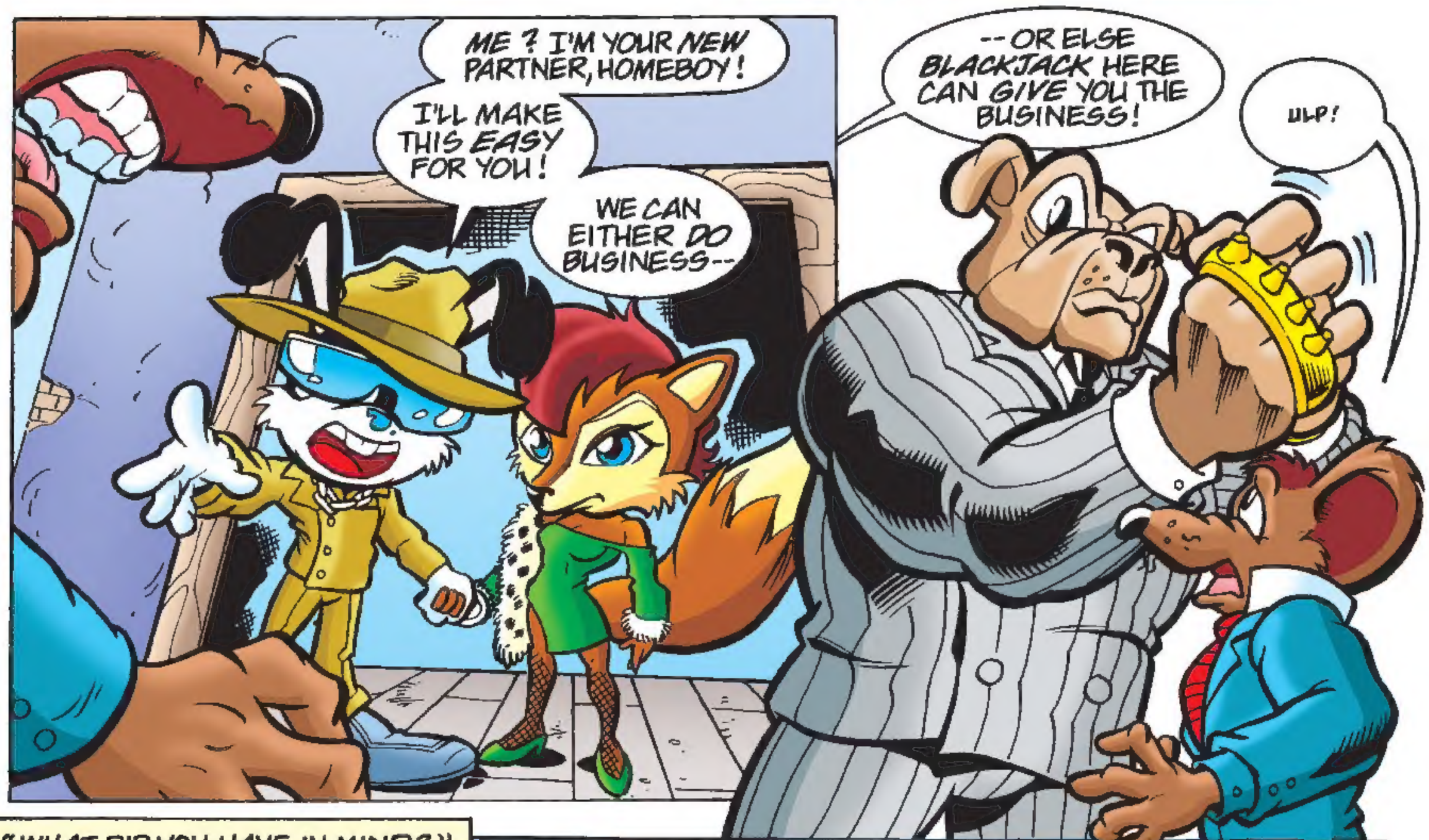
--AND IT WAS USUALLY ACCOMPANIED WITH A CAPITAL "T" AS IN TROUBLE!
WHAT NOW, KID?
I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD ASK ANOTHER FAVOR OF YOU...
I HATE IT WHEN I'M RIGHT.
I SHOULD'VE SAID NO TO HIM AND HIS FRIENDS.
INSTEAD, MY GUT TELLS ME CHANCES ARE, THESE KIDS DON'T KNOW WHEN TO COME IN OUT OF THE RAIN.
ARE WE THERE, YET?
VECTOR--
--I'M GOING TO SLUG YOU IF YOU ASK THAT ONE MORE TIME.
PUT A CORK IN IT-- BOTH OF YOU!
I SAY THEY BE ALLOWED TO DUKE IT OUT AFTER I PLACE A FEW BETS ON THE OUTCOME.
ANYWAY, SEE THAT SIGN UP AHEAD?
TAXI

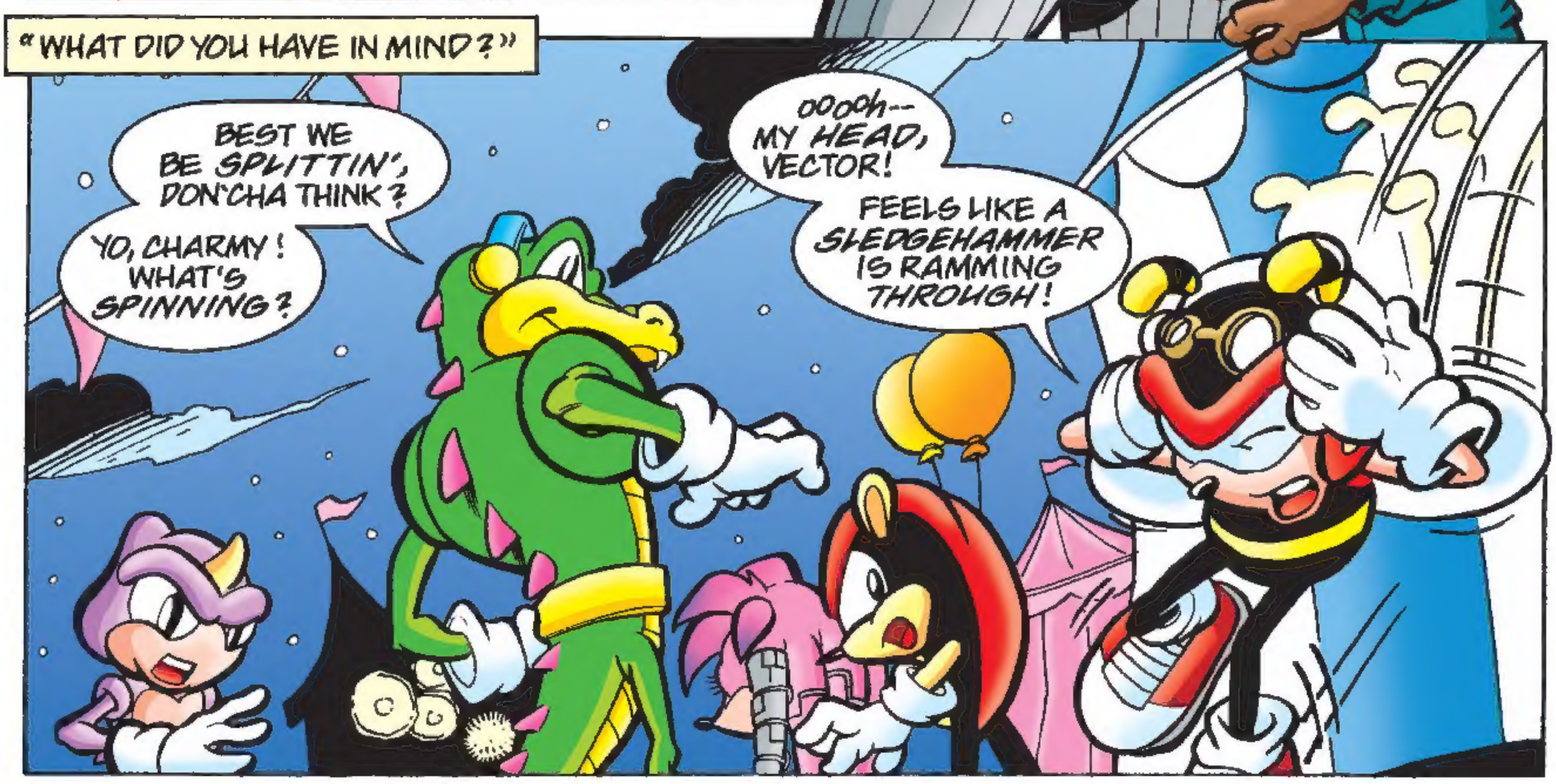

"IT MEANS YOU AIN'T MY HEADACHE ANYMORE. HAVE A FUN TIME."
THAT WAS FRIENDLY!
WOULD YOU RATHER HAVE WALKED?
HARRY GOT US HERE, DIDN'T HE?
C'MON! WE'VE GOT A LOT OF REAL ESTATE TO COVER!
WHAT DO YOU THINK WE'RE LOOKING FOR?
FROM WHAT THE CONSTABLE SAID, I'D SAY ANYTHING UNUSUAL WHERE FOOD IS SOLD!
SPEAKING OF WHICH--
DID YOUR FRIEND EAT ANYTHING WHILE YOU WERE HERE?
I'LL TAKE ONE!
THANKS!
NOT THAT I CAN REMEMBER, NO!
CHILI-DOGS
IF HE DIDN'T EAT HERE--
HOW'D HE GET SICK?
MAYBE IT WAS SOMETHING MELLO ATE ELSEWHERE!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

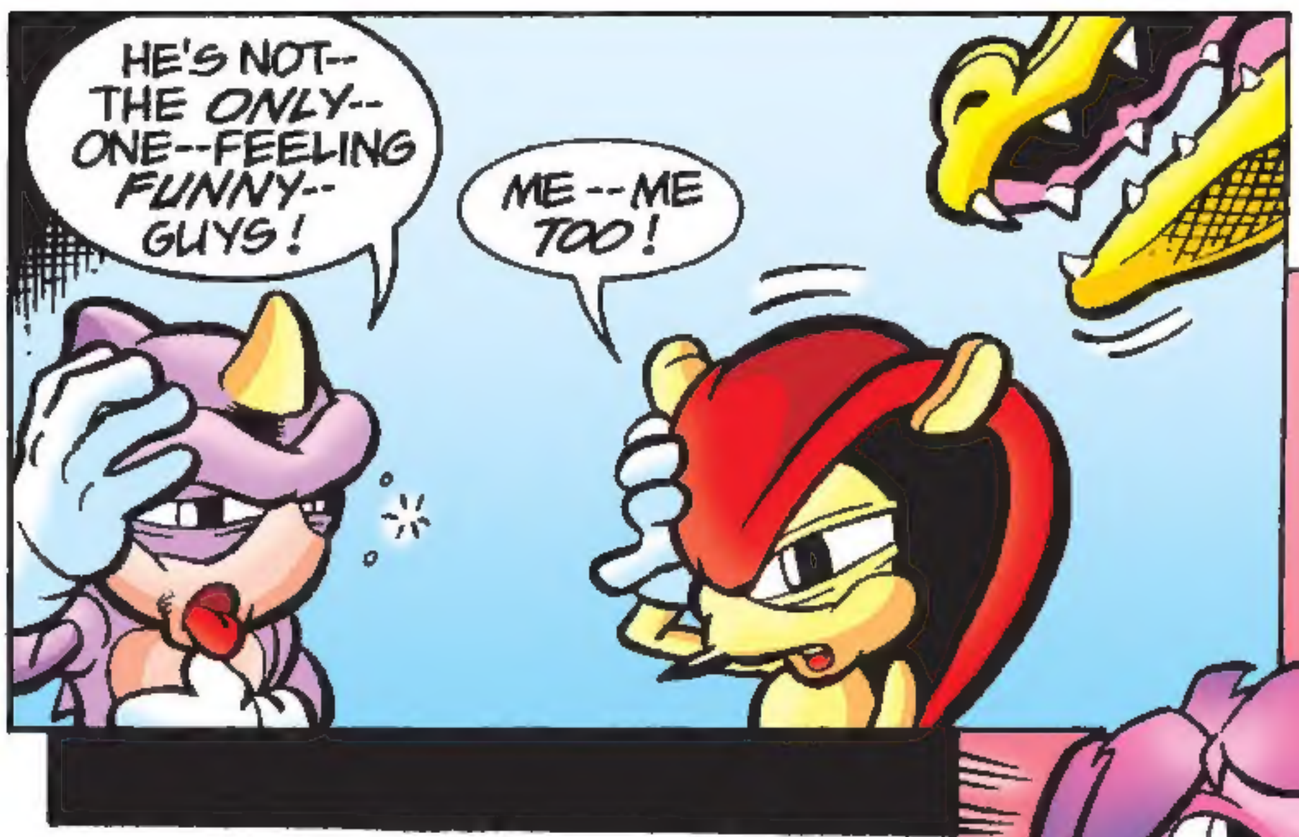

EVER GET THE FEELING YOU DID SOMETHING WRONG AND DIDN'T KNOW WHY?
EVER SINCE I LEFT THOSE KIDS OFF AT THE PARK, I'VE HAD A PIT IN MY STOMACH.
WHY SHOULD I CARE, ANYWAY? THEY'RE NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY.
NOT TO MENTION, CARING MEANS INVOLVEMENT--
--AND A GUY COULD GET HURT IF HE INVOLVED HIMSELF IN THE WRONG PERSON'S BUSINESS.
FIND ANYTHING, GUYS?
NOT A TRACE!
EVERYTHING APPEARS COPACETIC!
NOBODY'S FREAKIN' OUT AS FAR AS I CAN SEE!
GUESS THAT MEANS--
THE FOOD MUST BE SAFE!
CHILI DOGS
CAN'T SAY I'M NOT READY TO CHOW DOWN MYSELF!
GUYS! DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD WAIT?
JUST TO BE SAFE?
CHOMP!!

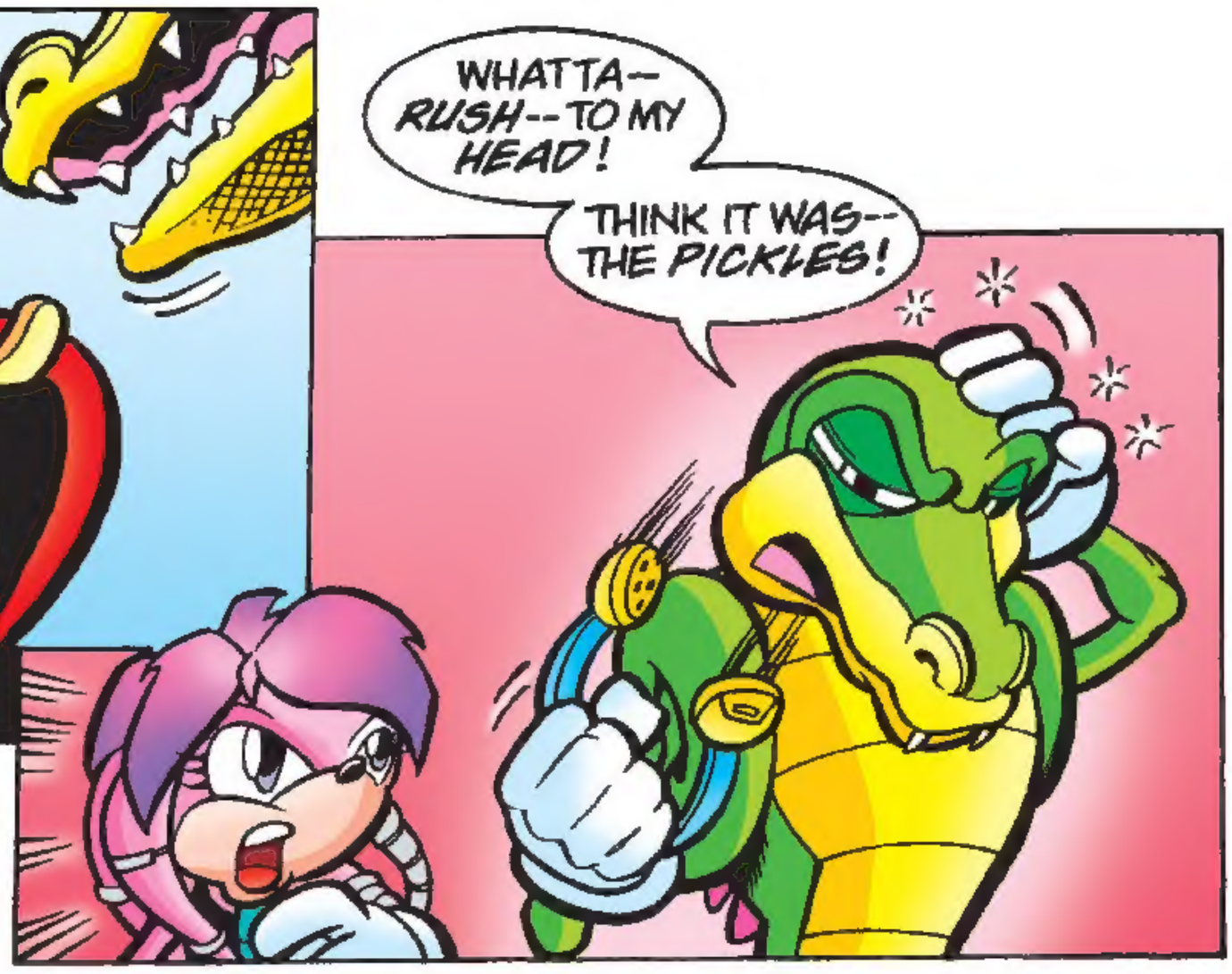
"IT TASTES GREAT, JULIE-SU! HERE! HAVE SOME!"
HAPPY! HAPPY! JOY! JOY!
WE'RE A HIT!!
BEST OF ALL, NO PARTNERS DEMANDING A CUT OF THE PROFITS!

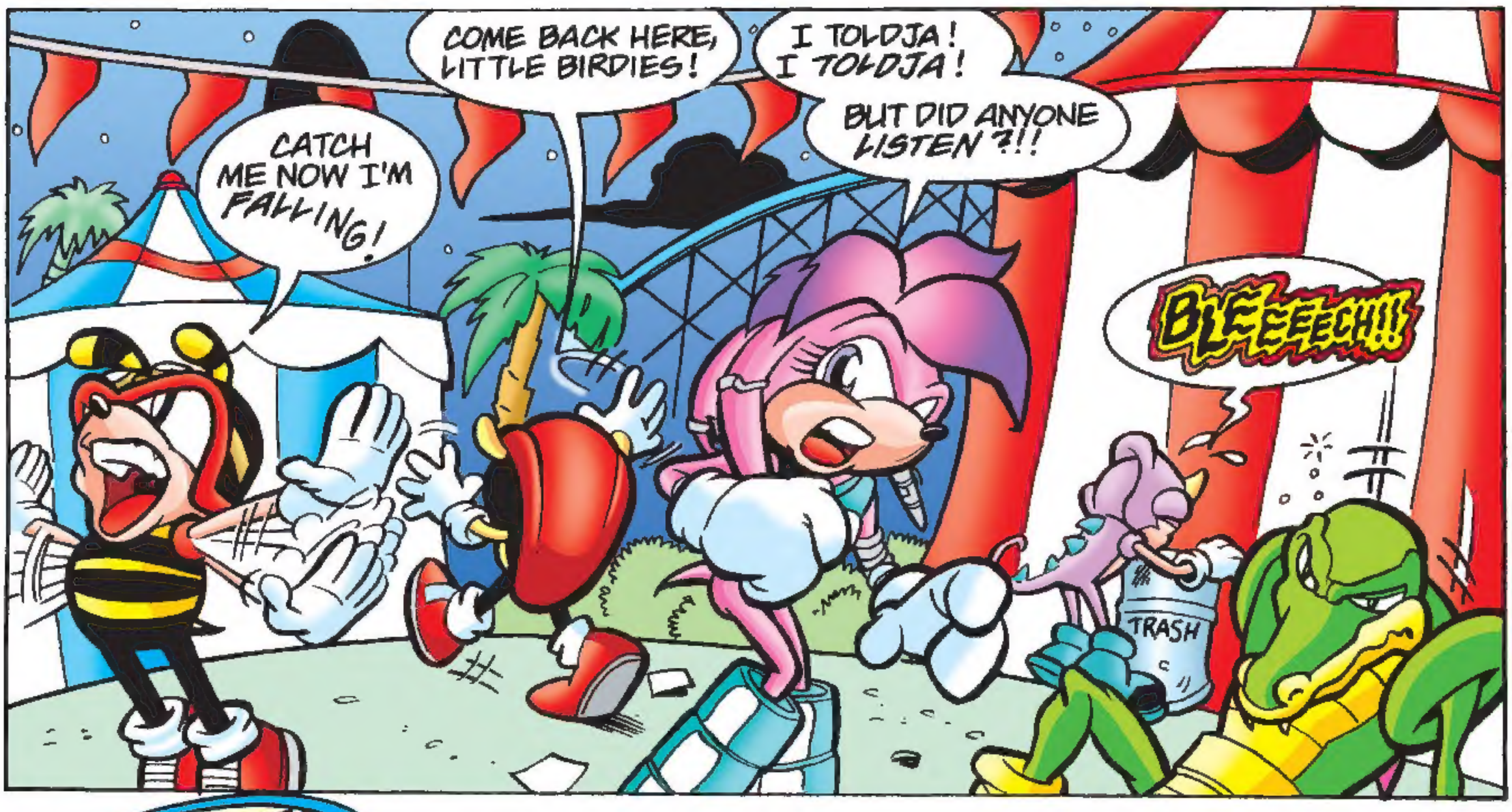

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT, RENFIELD! YOU'LL STILL GET A CUT--
--LONG AS YOU DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD!
HUH?!
WHO ARE YOU?!?

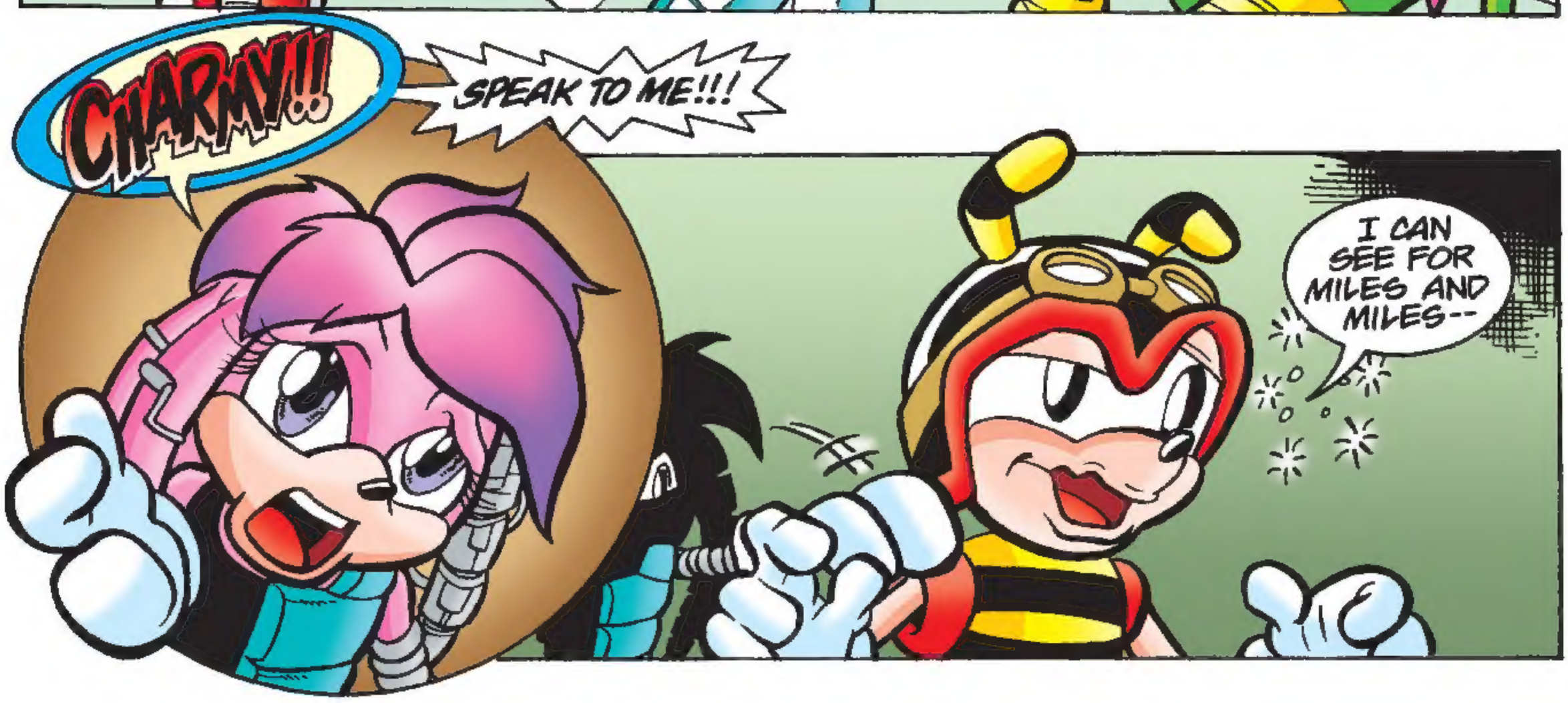

ME? I'M YOUR NEW PARTNER, HOMEBOY!
I'LL MAKE THIS EASY FOR YOU!
WE CAN EITHER DO BUSINESS--
--OR ELSE BLACKJACK HERE CAN GIVE YOU THE BUSINESS!
ULP!

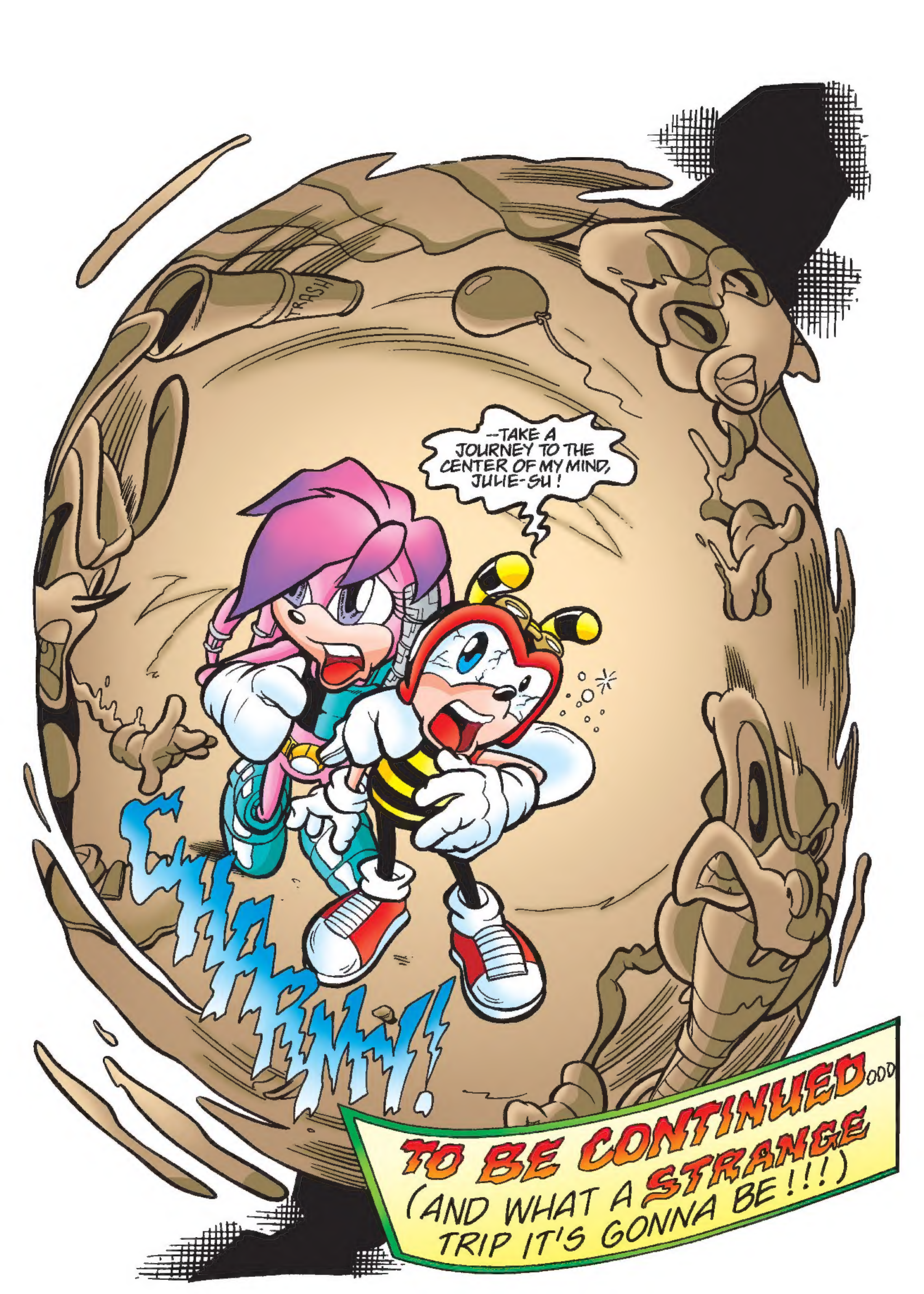

"WHAT DID YOU HAVE IN MIND?"
BEST WE BE SPLITTIN', DON'CHA THINK?
YO, CHARMY! WHAT'S SPINNING?
OOOOH-- MY HEAD, VECTOR!
FEELS LIKE A SLEDGEHAMMER IS RAMMING THROUGH!


HE'S NOT-- THE ONLY-- ONE--FEELING FUNNY-- GUYS!
ME--ME TOO!


WHATTA-- RUSH--TO MY HEAD!
THINK IT WAS-- THE PICKLES!


COME BACK HERE, LITTLE BIRDIES!
I TOLDJA! I TOLDJA!
BUT DID ANYONE LISTEN?!!
CATCH ME NOW I'M FALLING!
BLEEEECH!!!
TRASH


CHARMY!!!
SPEAK TO ME!!!
I CAN SEE FOR MILES AND MILES--


TRASH
--TAKE A JOURNEY TO THE CENTER OF MY MIND, JULIE-SU!
EHHHHHH!!!
TO BE CONTINUED...
(AND WHAT A STRANGE TRIP IT'S GONNA BE!!!)